

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-92

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELK GROVE APPROVING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Cosumnes Community Services District (CCSD) Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the City and the CCSD agreed, in their 2007 Settlement Agreement to work cooperatively to develop a long range Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City determined that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and prepared an initial study evaluating the potential environmental effects of the project; and

WHEREAS, no potentially significant adverse effects were identified in the Initial Study; and

WHEREAS, the City distributed the Notice of Intent to Adopt the Negative Declaration on December 18, 2009 and was posted at the Sacramento County Clerk's Office, distributed through the State Clearinghouse and at the City offices, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15072. A 30 day review and comment period was opened on December 18, 2009 and closed on January 18, 2010. The Negative Declaration was made available to the public during this review period, and is attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the City received written comment letters within the 30 day public review period and responded to those comments in Attachment A of the February 18, 2010 Planning Commission staff report, and attached as Exhibit B; and

WHEREAS, the City has considered the comments received during the public review period, and they do not alter the conclusions in the Initial Study and Negative Declaration; and

WHEREAS, the City of Elk Grove, Development Services Planning Department, located 8401 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, California 95758 is the custodian of documents and other materials that constitute the record of proceedings upon which the decision to adopt the Negative Declaration is based; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on February 18, 2010, as required by law to consider all of the information presented by staff and public testimony presented in writing and at the meeting; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing on May 12, 2010, as required by law to consider all of the information presented by staff and public testimony presented in writing and at the meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elk Grove approves the Negative Declaration prepared for the Parks Master Plan, as illustrated in Exhibits A and B of this Resolution and incorporated by reference herein and based on the following finding:

Finding: On the basis of the whole record, there is no substantial evidence that the project as designed and conditioned will have a significant effect on the environment. A Negative Declaration has been prepared and completed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the City.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Elk Grove this 12th day of May 2010.


SOPHIA SCHERMAN, MAYOR of the
CITY OF ELK GROVE

ATTEST:


JASON LINDGREN, INTERIM CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


SUSAN COCHRAN, CITY ATTORNEY

EXHIBIT A



8401 Laguna Palms Way • Elk Grove, California 95758
Tel: 916.683.7111 • Fax: 916.691.3175 • www.elkgrovecity.org

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

December 18, 2009

LEAD AGENCY: City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

CONTACT PERSON: Jessica Shalamunec, (916) 478-2246

PROJECT TITLE: Parks and Recreation Master Plan

PROJECT LOCATION: City-wide

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will guide decision-making for the future development and management of parks, recreation facilities, and open space within the City of Elk Grove. The master plan is a planning document, intended to set goals, objectives, and standards for the Cosumnes Community Services District (CCSD) and the City. The Negative Declaration is not intended to be used as the environmental document of any of the possible facilities identified in the master plan.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Elk Grove has prepared a draft Negative Declaration, pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for the above described project.

The project is not listed on the Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List as set forth in Government Code Section 65962.5.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: A 30 day public review period for the Draft Negative Declaration will commence on December 18, 2009 through January 18, 2010 for interested individuals and public agencies to submit written comments on the document. Any written comments on the Negative Declaration must be received at the above address within the public review period. Comments can also be made during the public hearing. Copies of the Negative Declaration and Initial Study are available for review at the City at the above address and on the website at www.egplanning.org/environmental/.

PUBLIC MEETING: This matter has been tentatively set for public hearing before the City Council/Planning Commission on February 4, 2010.

For reviewing agencies: The City of Elk Grove requests that you review the enclosed materials and provide any appropriate comments related to your agency's area of responsibility. The space below may be used to indicate that your agency has no comments or to state brief comments. If applicable and in accordance with Section 15097 of the CEQA Guidelines, please provide a draft mitigation monitoring or reporting program for mitigation measures proposed by your agency. This program should include specific performance objectives for mitigation measures identified (CEQA Section 21081.6(c)). Also inform this Department if a fee needs to be collected in order to fund the mitigation monitoring or reporting by your agency and how that language should be incorporated into the mitigation measure.

- No Comments provided
- Comments noted below
- Comments provided in separate letter

COMMENTS:

Return to: City of Elk Grove
 Development Services – Planning
 Attn.: Jessica Shalamunec
 8401 Laguna Palms Way
 Elk Grove, CA 95758

From: Agency Name: _____
 Contact Person: _____
 Phone Number: _____

DISTRIBUTION

1. State Clearinghouse (15 copies)—include Notice of Completion
2. County Clerk's Office
3. City Hall
4. Newspaper
5. Interested Parties
Adams, Broadwell, Joseph & Cardozo
6. Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (AQMD)
7. CALTRANS
8. Elk Grove Unified School District
9. Sacramento County Water Agency
10. Elk Grove Water Service
11. Pacific Gas & Electric
12. Cosumnes Community Services District



NEGATIVE DECLARATION

DECEMBER 18, 2009

Pursuant to Division 6, Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 6, Sections 15070 and 15071 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the Environmental Planning Manager of the City of Elk Grove, State of California, does prepare, make, declare, publish, and cause to be filed with the City Clerk this Negative Declaration regarding the project as described below.

Project Title: Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Project Description: The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will guide decision-making for the future development and management of parks, recreation facilities, and open space within the City of Elk Grove. The master plan is a planning document, intended to set goals, objectives, and standards for the Cosumnes Community Services District (CCSD) and the City. The Negative Declaration is not intended to be used as the environmental document of any of the possible facilities identified in the master plan.

Project Location: City-wide

Project APN Number: Various, city-wide

Project Applicant: City of Elk Grove

The said project will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

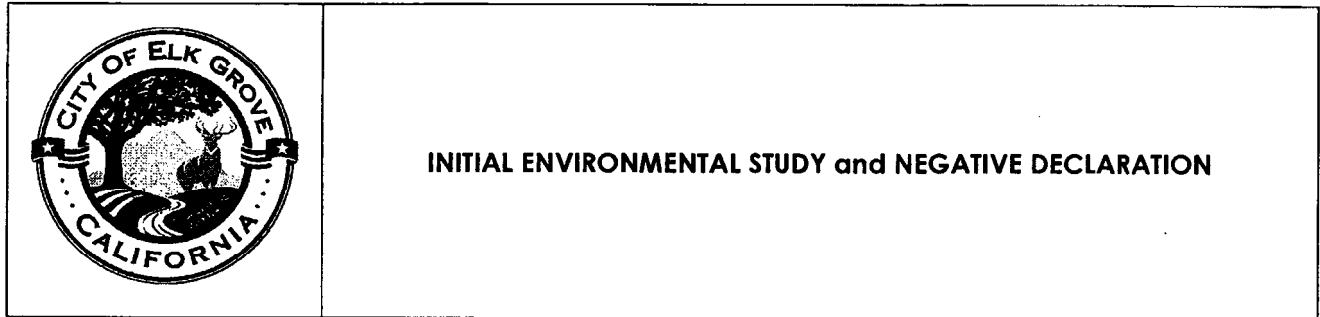
1. It will not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
2. It will not have impacts, which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
3. It will not have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

As a result thereof, the preparation of an environmental impact report pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California) is not required.

The attached Initial Study has been prepared by the City of Elk Grove, Development Services - Planning in support of this Negative Declaration. Further information may be obtained by contacting Development Services - Planning at 8401 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758, (916) 478-2265.

Planning Manager
City of Elk Grove Development Services - Planning

By 
Jessica Shalamunec



Project Title:	Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Lead Agency Name and Address:	City of Elk Grove Development Services-Planning 8401 Laguna Palms Way Elk Grove, CA 95758
Project Location:	City-Wide
Project Sponsor's Name and Address:	City of Elk Grove Development Services-Planning 8401 Laguna Palms Way Elk Grove, CA 95758
General Plan Designation(s):	N/A
Zoning:	N/A
Contact Person:	Taro Echiburu
Phone Number:	916.478.3619
Date Prepared	December 16, 2009

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is an Initial Study and Negative Declaration (ND) prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (referred to as the Master Plan or proposed project). This ND has been prepared in accordance with CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq., and the CEQA Guidelines found in Chapter 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064 (a)(1), an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if there is substantial evidence in light of the whole record that the proposed project under review may have a significant effect on the environment. A negative declaration may be prepared instead, if the lead agency finds that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. A negative declaration is a written statement describing the reasons why a proposed project, not exempt from CEQA, would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why it would not require the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a negative declaration shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

- a) The Initial Study shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, or
- b) The Initial Study identified potentially significant effects, but:
 - (1) Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed mitigated negative declaration and initial study is released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and
 - (2) There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

If revisions are adopted into the proposed project in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(b), a mitigated negative declaration (MND) is prepared.

1.1 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over a proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be the agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose..." In this case, the City of Elk Grove and the Cosumnes Community Services District (CCSD) will both serve as lead agencies for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This is due to the fact that the City and CCSD have agreed to work cooperatively to develop a long range Master Plan and site specific plans for the development and construction of new facilities.

1.2 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this Initial Study and Negative Declaration (IS/ND) is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. This document is divided into the following sections:

- 1.0 **Introduction:** Provides an introduction and describes the purpose and organization of this document.
- 2.0 **Project Description:** Provides a detailed description of the proposed project.
- 3.0 **Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:** Provides an identification of those environmental factors that involve a "Potentially Significant Impact."
- 4.0 **Determination:** Provides the environmental determination for the proposed project.
- 5.0 **Environmental Checklist and Evaluation:** Describes the environmental setting for each of the environmental subject areas, evaluates a range of impacts classified as "no impact," "less than significant," "potentially significant unless mitigation incorporated," or "potentially significant" in response to the environmental checklist.

This IS/ND has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15000 et seq. The ND analyzes the potential impacts of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will guide decision-making for the future development and management of parks, recreation facilities and open space within the City of Elk Grove. According to 2006 Census Bureau data, the CCSD at the time supported the fastest growing City in America, Elk Grove, with 136,000 persons.

The CCSD and City are faced with the challenge of developing parks and recreation facilities to support community growth. This challenge must take into account each agency's fiscal strength and balance future development and maintenance responsibilities within financial capabilities. The Master Plan is a planning document, intended to develop and set goals for the CCSD and the City. Specific funding responsibilities for an individual entity, which projects will be funded, and who participates in the funding are part of future discussions. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies a main goal that over the next 10 years, the City and CCSD will work to achieve park and land acquisition and development of 5.00 acres per 1,000 residents through Quimby dedication and development impact fees or other fair share funding mechanisms, while allowing for additional open space land acquisition through the entitlement process. All fees for park land acquisition, park development, or related facility activities will require a nexus study to justify the benefit to the affected parties before being imposed.

This Initial Study/Negative Declaration is not intended to be used as the environmental document for any of the facilities identified in the Master Plan as these will require their own environmental documents at the time they are proposed for construction. A copy of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan can be obtained at the City's Planning Department.

2.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The Master Plan vision is dynamic and sets a course for excellence in parks facilities and recreation programming. Much of the Master Plan's success is dependent on dedicated funding for land, capital improvements and operations. This will require the CCSD and City of Elk Grove to seek all available resources and partnerships to meet the goals of the Master Plan. The community desires high quality parks and facilities, as identified in the Master Plan standards. Implementation will require patience and perseverance. Cooperatively, the CCSD and City of Elk Grove can succeed at providing the best parks and recreation system in the Sacramento region. The CCSD Parks and Recreation Department has strong leadership and is organizationally ready to implement recommendations in the Master Plan which include:

- Focusing on acquisition and development of larger community and regional park sites,
- Identifying new funding sources for capital expenditures and operations,
- Planning and funding additional maintenance positions before new parks and facilities become operational,
- Moving recreation operations from a social management model to a business management model to become more sustainable,
- Tracking performance and reporting results to build community support,
- Annual updates to the Master Plan Vision Strategy Matrix,
- Implementing the priorities in the capital improvement schedule to support the needs of the community and keep a well-balanced parks and recreation system, and
- Developing strong partnerships

2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND SURROUNDING LAND USES

The environmental setting consists of all areas located within the City limits of Elk Grove, which is located at the southern end of the Sacramento Valley. The Sacramento Valley is bounded by the coastal ranges to the west and the Sierra Nevada to the east. The City's topography is generally flat, with maximum slopes of approximately 3 percent. Interstate 5 aligns north to south near the western boundary of the City, and State Route 99 aligns north to south in the eastern portion of the City. Existing land uses in the City consist of a variety of primarily residential and commercial uses, as well as recreational, open space, office, industrial, and institutional uses.

The existing physical environment is described in more detail in the *City of Elk Grove General Plan Background Report 2003* and the *City of Elk Grove General Plan 2003*. These documents are available at the City of Elk Grove Development Services Department at 8401 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758 or online at: http://www.egplanning.org/gp_zoning/general_plan/. It is important to note that the environmental setting information contained in the background report and General Plan and throughout this document contain the City's General Plan Planning Area, which is greater in size than the City limits. However, the reports still provide relevant environmental setting information on the City and surrounding area that could be affected by the proposed project.

2.4 OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED

There are no other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement) for the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

2.5 ASSUMPTIONS

The City adopted the General Plan in 2003 and certified the Environmental Impact Report for the General Plan as adequate and complete at that time. The proposed project is subject to the policies and designations of the City of Elk Grove General Plan (hereafter referred to as the General Plan). Therefore, the City's General Plan and General Plan EIR are hereby incorporated by reference into this Negative Declaration.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

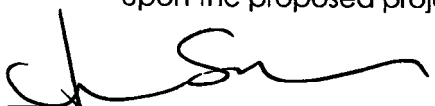
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by the proposed project, as indicated by the checklist and corresponding discussion on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gases | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

4.0 DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Signature

December 18, 2009

Date

Jessica Shalamunec

Printed Name

City of Elk Grove
Planning Department

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND EVALUATION

5.1 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (CEQA Guidelines Appendix G)

- 1) A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the information shows that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take into account the whole action involved, including offsite as well as onsite, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses" may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

5.1 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

I. AESTHETICS		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

In general, the dominant visual features within the Elk Grove Planning Area are the open sections of the valley floor, urbanized land uses, agricultural land uses, rivers and creeks, and various species of trees. Because the entire City consists of relatively flat terrain, views of these resources are available from roadways throughout the City. Oak trees, streams, creeks, and rivers are among the most significant natural visual features in the City (pg. 47, reference #4). Portions of a State and County designated scenic highway, State Route 160 (also known as River Road), lies just outside the boundaries of the City of Elk Grove and remains under the jurisdiction of Sacramento County (pg. 47, reference #6). Scenic corridors that extend 660 feet on each side of the right-of-way protect all freeways within Sacramento County. Specifically within the City, these scenic corridors protect Interstate 5 from the Laguna Boulevard exit to Twin Cities Road, State Route 99 from the Calvine Road exit to the juncture of State Route 99 and the Consumnes River south of Grant Line Road (pg. 47, reference #4).

Discussion/Conclusion:

a) No Impact. The Elk Grove General Plan does not identify any scenic vistas within the City of Elk Grove. The proposed project would not adversely affect a scenic vista and no impact would occur.

b-c) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document. While the Master Plan envisions increased parks and recreational facilities and program services, it does not include any specific designs or proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would degrade the existing visual character of the City. The Master Plan anticipates "Public" land uses that are consistent with the land use designations established by the General Plan. Future parks and recreational projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to aesthetic resources and Municipal Code requirements associated with site planning and development regulations.

Therefore, implementation of the proposed Master Plan would result in less than significant impacts associated with the degradation of the visual character of the City by complying with General Plan Policies.

d) *Less than Significant Impact.* As discussed under **b-c)** above, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not include any specific development designs or proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would increase daytime glare or nighttime illumination in the City. Future parks and recreational development projects within the City would be required to be designed and constructed in accordance with the Elk Grove Municipal Code, which restricts hours of operation, height, and footcandle levels of light fixtures in outdoor areas. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Master Plan would result in less than significant impacts associated with increased light and glare by complying with the Elk Grove Municipal Code.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The majority of agricultural land uses within the City of Elk Grove are considered fallow (vacant or underutilized). Few crops are grown in the City itself and no major intensive agricultural operations occur within the City limits, though small family farms do exist. Much of the remaining agricultural land uses are expected to be converted to urban land uses as the City continues to develop. The Important Farmland Map for Sacramento County designates 5,893 acres within the City as "Farmland of Statewide Importance". There are approximately 175 acres of Prime Farmland within the City limits, approximately 3,997 acres classified as Farmland of Local Importance, and 8,649 acres of Urban and Built-up Land within the City (pg. 47, reference #6).

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-b) Less Than Significant Impact. Implementation of the Master Plan could result in the direct conversion of Prime Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland). However, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document that envisions an increase in park facilities and programs. It does not include any specific development designs or proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would convert agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses or place facilities adjacent to agricultural uses. The Master Plan anticipates "Public" land uses that are consistent with the land use designations established by the General Plan Designation Map.

While the Master Plan does envision an increase in park facilities and programs, specific areas of affected lands has not yet been determined. Master Plan policies and programs do not provide

specific details regarding future land use decisions, and no course of action associated with these policies has been determined. Therefore, identification of environmental impacts associated with the Master Plan, including consideration of whether or not it would conflict with or convert existing agricultural uses, would be speculative. Should the City determine that additional park sites or new zoning designations are necessary at some point in the future; the City would conduct the appropriate level of CEQA review prior to taking any actions to consider the approval of such changes.

Furthermore, future park and recreational development projects would require compliance with General Plan policies related to agricultural resources that are intended to preserve blocks of agricultural land in agricultural or open space use and maintain a continuing agricultural use of those lands. The City has also adopted a "Right-to-Farm" Ordinance, codified in Municipal Code Chapter 14.05, that would ensure that agricultural operations which are operated in a manner consistent with proper and accepted customs and standards of the agricultural industry are allowed to continue without complaints from nearby residents.

Therefore, impacts associated with the conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses, as well as impacts associated with conflicts with agricultural zoning and Williamson Act lands, would be considered less than significant because of future project level environmental review.

c) *Less Than Significant Impact.* The placement of non-agricultural uses adjacent to agricultural uses can result in agriculture-urban interface conflicts that inadvertently place growth pressure on agricultural lands to convert to urban uses. These conflicts include inconveniences or discomforts associated with dust, smoke, noise, and odor from agricultural operations, restrictions on agricultural operations (such as pesticide application) along interfaces with urban uses, farm equipment and vehicles using roadways, and trespassing and vandalism on active farms. The proposed Master Plan does not identify specific projects for development. Although the Master Plan does identify the need for increased parks facilities and program services, the project does not involve the construction or expansion of parks or recreational facilities. All future parks projects would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan, Municipal Code, and adopted building standards. Environmental impacts of subsequent projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific parks development proposal.

Therefore, compliance with the General Plan, Municipal Code, and adopted building standards would ensure that impacts associated with the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use would be considered less than significant.

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) 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 (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in significant construction-related air quality impacts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Elk Grove lies at the southern end of the Sacramento Valley, a broad, flat valley bounded by the coastal ranges to the west and the Sierra Nevada to the east. A sea level gap in the Coast Range (the Carquinez Strait) is located approximately 50 miles southwest and the intervening terrain is very flat. The prevailing wind direction is southwesterly, which is the wind direction when marine breezes flow through the Carquinez Strait. Marine breezes dominate during the spring and summer months, and show strong daily variations. Highest average wind speeds occur in the afternoon and evening hours; lightest winds occur in the night and morning hours. During fall and winter, when the sea breeze diminishes, northerly winds occur more frequently, but southwesterly winds still predominate. The City is within the jurisdiction of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD), which is part of the Sacramento Valley Air Basin. The Sacramento Valley Air Basin has been further divided into Planning Areas called the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin (NSVAB) and the Greater Sacramento Air region, designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the Sacramento Federal Ozone non-attainment area. The non-attainment area consists of all of Sacramento and Yolo counties and parts of El Dorado, Solano, Placer, and Sutter counties.

Discussion/Conclusion

a) Less Than Significant Impact. A project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the regional air quality attainment plans (Sacramento Area Regional Ozone Attainment Plan) if it is inconsistent with the growth assumptions, in terms of population, employment, or regional growth in vehicle miles traveled. These population forecasts are developed, in part, on data obtained from local jurisdictions and projected land uses and population projections identified in community plans (pg. 48, reference #19). Projects that result in an increase in population growth that is inconsistent with local community plans would be considered inconsistent with the Sacramento Area Regional Ozone Attainment Plan.

All future anticipated park development would be required to be in accordance with both the General Plan and Municipal Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Furthermore, future park development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to air quality, including policies and programs intended to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and the use of private motor vehicles. Impacts associated with obstructing implementation of the regional air quality attainment plan would be less than significant because the approval of the Master Plan does not authorize or enable the construction of any specific park or recreational facility, subsequent projects will go through the appropriate environmental review process.

b-d) Less Than Significant Impact. All federal ambient air quality standards except ozone and the state standards for carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and PM_{2.5} are met in the Elk Grove area. Future park development envisioned by the proposed Master Plan could result in an increase in criteria pollutants during both construction and operational activities and could also contribute substantially to the existing nonattainment status of the Sacramento Air Basin. Construction activities such as excavation and grading operations, construction vehicle traffic, and wind blowing over exposed earth could generate exhaust emissions and fugitive particulate matter emissions that would affect local air quality. This is variable depending on the weather, soil conditions, and the amount of activity taking place, as well as the nature of dust control efforts. Likewise, operational air quality impacts are dependent on the scope of services being provided and mitigation being used.

The proposed Master Plan does not include any specific project designs or project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future projects would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Municipal Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific project design. Furthermore, future projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to air quality.

The proposed Master Plan would have less than significant impacts associated with contributing substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation and increasing criteria pollutants during potential construction and operational activities because the approval of the Master Plan does not authorize or enable the construction of any specific park or recreational facility, subsequent projects will go through the appropriate environmental review process, and they would be required to be in accordance with local regulations.

e) Less than Significant Impact. Increases in park and recreational facilities and programs envisioned by the proposed Master Plan would be considered sensitive receptors that could be exposed to pollutant concentrations. However, as discussed under **a)** and **b-d)** above, the

proposed Master Plan does not include any specific project designs or project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Future projects would be required to comply with General Plan policies related to air quality, conform to the Sacramento Area Regional Ozone Attainment Plan, and meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and SMAQMD thresholds during both construction and operational activities. Therefore, the proposed Master Plan would have less than significant impacts associated with exposing sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations because the approval of the Master Plan does not authorize or enable the construction of any specific park or recreational facility, subsequent projects will go through the appropriate environmental review process, and they would be required to be in accordance with local regulations.

f) No Impact. Park and recreational activities are not considered to be an emission source that would result in objectionable odors because activities typically occurring in parks do not emit any odor. No impact would occur.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Land uses throughout the City of Elk Grove and its Planning Area vary, but the predominant land uses include commercial, and residential. Natural undisturbed open space is present in the western portion of the Planning Area within the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and in the eastern portion of the Planning Area within the Cosumnes River Preserve. Plant communities within the City of Elk Grove Planning Area include agricultural cropland, annual grassland, fallow agricultural land, horticultural/landscape, irrigation ditches, irrigated pastures, open waters,

perennial and seasonal marshes, riparian woodlands, seasonal wetlands, and vernal pools. The City contains areas of suitable habitat conditions for special-status wildlife species to occur.

This is especially true for large undeveloped land areas in the eastern and southern portions of the City that are adjacent to undeveloped lands outside of the City. Known special-status species to occur within the City include the California linderiella, midvalley fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, northwestern pond turtle, giant garter snake and Swainson's hawk (pg. 47, reference #6).

Discussion/Conclusion:

a) *Less Than Significant Impact.* Future park and recreational facilities and programs increases could result in impacts to biological resources. Site-specific field studies are generally required to search for special-status species and to determine whether suitable habitat for any special-status species occurs on or near a study area. The proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document. While it encourages an increase in park and recreational facilities and programs, it does not include any specific project designs or project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future projects occurring within the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Municipal Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific project proposal.

Specifically, the General Plan requires that a biological resources evaluation be conducted for private and public development projects in areas identified to contain or possibly contain special-status plant and animal species. The biological resources evaluation is required to determine the presence or absence of special-status plant and animal species on the site and to identify feasible mitigation measures to mitigate adverse impacts to special-status species to the satisfaction of the City and appropriate governmental agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition, future projects would be required to mitigate for the loss of protected trees consistent with the City of Elk Grove Tree Preservation and Protection Chapter 19.12 of the Municipal Code.

Therefore, adverse impacts to special-status plant and animal species, as well as their habitats, would be less than significant because the approval of the Master Plan does not authorize or enable the construction of any specific park or recreational facility.

b-c) *Less than Significant Impact.* Future recreational development within the City could result in adverse impacts to sensitive natural communities such as riparian habitat and federally protected wetlands. As discussed under **a)** above, the proposed Master Plan does not include any specific project designs or proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. While the Master Plan does envision an increase in parks and recreational facilities and programs, future projects will be required to comply with the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404, which regulates the discharge of dredged and fill materials into waters of the United States. *Waters of the United States* refers to oceans, bays, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. A permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for all discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, before proceeding with a proposed activity must be obtained. Waters of the United States in the Elk Grove area are under the jurisdiction of the Corps. Consequently, impacts to federally protected wetlands and riparian resources are considered less than significant.

d) *Less than Significant Impact.* As discussed under **a)** above, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document and while it envisions an increase in parks and recreational facilities and

programs, it does not include any site-specific project designs or project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. The potential for the proposed Master Plan to impede native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or the uses of wildlife nursery sites cannot be determined as no specific details regarding future development are provided. All future projects occurring within the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Municipal Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific project proposal. Therefore, impacts related to native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species are considered less than significant.

e) *Less than Significant Impact.* Currently, regulations protecting biological resources in the City (other than General Plan policies) include the City of Elk Grove Tree Preservation and Protection Ordinance and the City of Elk Grove Swainson's Hawk Ordinance. Under the current City of Elk Grove Tree Preservation and Protection Chapter 19.12 in the Municipal Code, native oak trees measuring at least six inches dbh (diameter at breast height) are protected and mitigation must be implemented for development projects that propose to remove the protected trees. The Swainson's Hawk Chapter 16.130 of the Municipal Code, requires development projects to mitigate impacts to Swainson's hawk foraging habitat. However, as discussed under **a-d)** above, the proposed Master Plan does not include any site-specific designs or project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would affect biological resources. Future projects would be required to comply with General Plan policies related to biological resources, as well as comply with both the City of Elk Grove Tree Preservation and Protection Code and the City of Elk Grove Swainson's Hawk Chapter. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with any laws protecting biological resources because subsequent projects would be required to comply with General Plan policies, the City's Tree Preservation and Swainson's Hawk chapters of the Municipal Code.

f) *No Impact.* The City of Elk Grove does not have an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or State habitat conservation plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The Elk Grove General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report states that there are 93 prehistoric and historic Native American archaeological sites within the City of Elk Grove Planning Area. Many, if not most of these archaeological sites are village mounds. Some are known to contain human remains. Many have the potential to contain human remains and most are located along rivers, creeks, sloughs and around lakes. In addition, there are 24 historic sites, many of which are remnants of farms and ranches within the City of Elk Grove Planning Area. Included among the historic sites is the Murphy's Ranch (Murphy's Corral) site, State Historic Landmark 680 and California Inventory of Historical Resources 182; the site of Joseph Hampton Kerr's home, California Inventory of Historical Resources 178 and Point of Historical Interest 001; the site of the Old Elk Grove Hotel, Point of Historical Interest 004; and the site of the first free library branch in California, California Historical Landmark No. 817. Old Town Elk Grove became nationally recognized as a historic district on March 1, 1988. It is listed as the Elk Grove Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. The Eastern Star Hall, located along the Sacramento River, approximately 1.5 miles north of the community of Hood, is the only other site in the Planning Area listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-d) Less than Significant Impact. The increase of parks and recreational facilities and programs envisioned in the Master Plan within the City could conflict with existing known cultural and historical resources. In addition to "known" resource areas, there is the potential that there are undiscovered paleontological and archeological resources that would be encountered and potentially impacted by future construction activities. These resources could include human remains located outside of cemeteries. The Master Plan is a policy-level document. While the Master Plan envisions an increase in parks and recreational facilities and programs, it does not include any specific project designs or project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would adversely affect archaeological, paleontological, or historic resources. All future recreational development occurring within the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Municipal Code.

Furthermore, Title 7 of the City's Municipal Code, Historic Preservation, provides "for the identification, designation, protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of historic resources including buildings, structures, objects, sites, districts, and cultural landscapes within the City that reflect special elements of the City's heritage and cultural diversity". Environmental impacts of subsequent projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific project proposal.

Therefore, impacts to cultural resources, including archaeological, paleontological, and historic resources, as well as human remains, are considered less than significant because the approval of the Master Plan does not authorize or enable the construction of any specific park or recreational facility and subsequent projects would be required to be in accordance with local regulations including Title 7 of the City's Municipal Code regarding historic preservation.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

No active or potentially active faults underlie the City of Elk Grove based on published geologic maps. The City is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone and surface evidence of faulting has not been observed. However, due to the proximity to the San Andreas Fault Zone and other active faults, the Planning Area may experience non-catastrophic ground shaking. Based upon known soil, groundwater, and ground shaking conditions within the City, the potential for liquefaction is considered low. In addition, the potential for ground lurching,

differential settlement, or lateral spreading occurring during or after seismic events in the City is also considered to be low (pg. 47, reference #6).

The San Joaquin soil type is the predominant soil series in the City of Elk Grove; specifically the San Joaquin silt loam (0 to 1 and 0 to 3 percent slopes), the San Joaquin-Durixeralfs complex (0 to 1 percent slopes), the San Joaquin-Galt complex (0 to 1 and 0 to 3 percent slopes), and Redding gravelly loam (0 to 8 percent slopes). The United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service has classified these soils as moderately well drained and moderately deep over a cemented hardpan. The San Joaquin soil type contains a relatively high percentage of clay minerals and therefore has a high potential to shrink and swell with changing moisture conditions. The San Joaquin soils in the City range from no potential for erosion to a low to moderate potential for erosion (pg. 47, reference #6).

There is a risk for subsidence, the gradual settling or sinking of the earth's surface with little or no horizontal motion, within the City. There are five causes of subsidence that affect the City of Elk Grove – compaction by heavy structures, erosion of peat soils, peat oxidation, fluid withdrawal, and compaction of unconsolidated soils by earthquake shaking. The pumping of water from subsurface water tables for residential, commercial, and agricultural uses causes the greatest amount of subsidence within the City (pg. 47, reference #6).

Discussion/Conclusion:

a)

i-iv) Less than Significant Impact. The Master Plan envisions an increase in parks and recreational facilities which could increase exposure of people and structures to seismic hazards, including rupture of a fault, strong seismic ground shaking, and seismic-related ground failure. However, the Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not identify any specific designs or project proposals. All future parks and recreational development occurring within the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Municipal Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal.

In addition, future projects would be required to comply with the Uniform Building Code (UBC) which includes requirements to ensure structures intended for human occupancy are designed and constructed to retain their structural integrity when subjected to seismic activity. Therefore, impacts related to seismic hazards would be considered less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact. Future parks and recreational opportunity increases within the City would result in the moving and grading of topsoil, which would lead to disturbed soils that are more likely to suffer from erosion from a variety of sources, such as wind and water. As discussed under **a) i-iv)** above, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not propose any specific project designs and does not directly result in adverse impacts associated with substantial loss of topsoil or erosion. The Elk Grove General Plan requires development projects to conduct site specific geotechnical reports that identify measures necessary to ensure stable soil conditions. In addition to General Plan policies, any future developments would be subject to the City's Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance (Title 16 Chapter 16.44 of the City Code), which establishes administrative procedures, minimum standards of review, and implementation and enforcement procedures for controlling erosion, sedimentation and other pollutant runoff. Since the proposed Master Plan does not identify particular project designs or proposals, identification of environmental impacts associated with specific projects would be speculative at this time. Therefore, erosion impacts resulting from the

proposed Master Plan would be less than significant, because subsequent projects would be required to be in accordance with the City's Land Grading and Erosion Control standards included in Chapter 16.44 of the Municipal Code.

c-d) Less than Significant Impact. Future parks and recreational development on unstable or expansive soils could create substantial risks to life or property and result in adverse impacts such as on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. As discussed under **a) i-iv)** above, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not propose any specific project designs or proposals. All future parks and recreational development occurring within the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Municipal Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific project proposal.

Therefore, impacts resulting from the proposed Master Plan associated with unstable and/or expansive soils would be less than significant because the approval of the Master Plan does not authorize or enable the construction of any specific park or recreational facility.

e) No Impact. No septic or alternative wastewater systems would be installed as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

VII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a-b) Less Than Significant Impact. The greenhouse effect is a natural process by which some of the radiant heat from the sun is captured in the lower atmosphere of the earth, thus maintaining the temperature and making the earth habitable. The gases that help capture the heat are called greenhouse gases (GHGs). Some GHGs occur naturally in the atmosphere, while others result from human activities. Naturally occurring GHGs include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone. Implementation of the Master Plan would result in increased vehicle trips to and from newly developed Park sites, thereby increasing GHG emissions. The proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not propose any specific project designs or proposals. All future parks and recreational development occurring within the City would be required to be evaluated and constructed in accordance with local regulations. Environmental impacts of subsequent projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific project proposal. This potential impact is considered less than significant because the approval of the Master Plan does not authorize or enable the construction of any specific park or recreational facility.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

A material is considered hazardous if it appears on a list of hazardous materials prepared by a Federal, State, or local agency, or if it has characteristics defined as hazardous by such an agency. According to California Health and Safety Code Section 25501(o), "Hazardous material" means any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. "Hazardous materials" include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material that a handler or the administering agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. Searches of the Department of Toxic Substance Control's EnviroStor database and the State Water Resources Control Board Geotracker database identified 44 hazardous material sites in the vicinity of Elk Grove that are associated with a hazardous material related release or occurrence (pg. 48, reference #23 and #24). There are two major industrial facilities that potentially pose offsite safety hazards within the City: the Suburban Propane facility and the Georgia Pacific Resins facility. The only roadway and transportation route approved for the transportation of explosives, poisonous inhalation hazards, and radioactive materials in the City of Elk Grove is Interstate 5 (pg. 47, reference #6).

There are no air related facilities in the City limits of Elk Grove. There are four airports in the vicinity of the City (Elk Grove Airport/Sunset Sky Ranch, Borges/Clarksburg Airport, Mather Airport, and Franklin Field). Portions of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) boundaries of those airports fall within the City of Elk Grove Planning Area.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-c) No Impact; d) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not include any specific project designs or proposals, or grant any entitlements for development. Impacts associated with hazardous materials would be dependent on the location of future parks and recreational projects and the nature of surrounding land uses. However, parks and recreational developments do not generally include the routine transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials that could create a significant hazard to the public. Therefore, the proposed Master Plan would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment regarding the transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials.

e-f) Less Than Significant Impact. Airport-related hazards are generally associated with aircraft accidents, particularly during takeoffs and landings. Airport operation hazards include incompatible land uses, power transmission lines, wildlife hazards (e.g., bird strikes), and tall structures that penetrate the imaginary surfaces surrounding an airport. As discussed under **a-d)** above, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not propose any specific project designs or proposals. While the proposed Master Plan does identify the need for increased parks and recreational facilities and programs, it does not provide specific details regarding specific future development. Future projects would be evaluated for consistency with the appropriate airport CLUP in order to ensure that airport-related hazards would not occur. Therefore impacts resulting from the proposed Master Plan associated with airport-related hazards would have a less than significant impact because future projects would be required to be consistent any appropriate CLUP.

g) Less Than Significant Impact. Upon incorporation, the City of Elk Grove adopted the Sacramento County Multi-Hazard Disaster Plan (SCMDP), which was established to address

planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters and technological incidents. The Plan focuses on operational concepts relative to large-scale disasters, which can pose major threats to life and property requiring unusual emergency responses. Additionally, the City adopted the Sacramento County Area Plan (SCAP), which is used as a guideline for hazardous material related accidents or occurrences. The purpose of the SCAP is "to delineate responsibilities and actions by various agencies in Sacramento County required to meet the obligation to protect the health and welfare of the populace, natural resource (environment), and the public and private properties involving hazardous materials" (pg. 47, reference #6). As discussed under **a-d)** above, the proposed Master Plan is a policy level document that does not propose any specific project designs or proposals. Future projects would be evaluated for consistency with the SCMDP and the SCAP. Therefore, impacts resulting from inconsistencies with adopted emergency response plans would be less than significant because subsequent projects would be required to be consistent with the SCMDP and SCAP.

h) No Impact. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Natural Hazard Disclosure map shows that the City does not contain any land designated as "Wildland Area That May Contain Substantial Forest Fire Risks and Hazards" or as a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone – AB 337". Therefore, no wildland fire impacts would occur.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Sacramento County is part of the Sacramento River watershed and, more specifically, surface water resources in the City of Elk Grove Planning Area are part of the Morrison Creek Stream Group, and include Elder, Elk Grove, Laguna (and tributaries), Morrison, Strawberry, and Whitehouse Creeks. Deer Creek is located in the eastern portion of the Planning Area, parallel to the Cosumnes River. The Cosumnes River is the eastern border of the Planning Area, however, all of the creeks in the area drain into the Morrison Creek Stream Group, then eventually into the Sacramento River. Laguna Creek, the main creek that flows through the City of Elk Grove, has been altered by development. There have been channels, levees, and culverts created to alleviate the possibility of flooding, as well as to accommodate different development scenarios. Some of the other creeks in the Planning Area have also been altered to accommodate development or alleviate flooding potential. A large portion of the Planning Area is located in a Zone X designation, or areas determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to be located outside a 500-year floodplain.

Groundwater levels in the City of Elk Grove Planning Area range from fifty feet below sea level to fifty feet above sea level and the majority of the Planning Area has poor groundwater recharge capabilities. The SCWA Zone 40: *Groundwater Management Plan* discusses groundwater in Zone 40, which includes the entire City of Elk Grove. According to the plan, formations that constitute the water-bearing deposits underlying Sacramento County include an upper, unconfined aquifer system consisting of the Victor, Fair Oaks, and Laguna Formations (now known as the Modesto Formation), and a lower, semi-confined aquifer system consisting primarily of the Mehrten Formation known for its fine black sands. Groundwater used in Zone 40 is supplied from both the shallow and deeper aquifer systems and the groundwater quality in the City meets all the CCR Title 22 drinking water quality standards, with the exception of iron, manganese, and arsenic (SCWA, 2004).

Discussion/Conclusion:

a) and f) Less than Significant Impact. Increased parks and recreational facilities and programs envisioned in the Master Plan could result in both construction and operational impacts to water quality and discharge standards. Potential operational impacts include the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides to maintain grass areas, as well as motor vehicle operation and maintenance. Potential construction impacts include grading and vegetation removal activities that would result in the exposure of raw soil materials to the natural elements (wind, rain, etc.). However, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not include any specific project designs or proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Therefore, identification and analysis of water quality impacts associated with the proposed Master Plan would be speculative at this time. All future parks and recreational

development occurring within the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Municipal Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal.

In addition, projects in the City are subject to the requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Permit enforced by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The permit requires that the City impose water quality and watershed protection measures for all development projects and prohibits discharges from causing violations of applicable water quality standards or from resulting in conditions that create a nuisance or water quality impairment in receiving waters. The Grading and Erosion Control Chapter 16.44 of the Municipal Code, establishes administrative procedures, standards for review, and implementation and enforcement procedures for controlling erosion, sedimentation, other pollutant runoff, and the disruption of existing drainage and related environmental damage. Chapter 16.44 requires that prior to grading activities, a detailed set of plans be developed that include measures to minimize erosion, sediment, and dust created by improvement activities. Compliance with the provisions of the NPDES and Chapter 16.44 would reduce impacts the impacts of future parks and recreational development. Therefore, water quality and waste discharge impacts would be less than significant because subsequent projects would be required to be in accordance with the City's Grading and Erosion Control Chapter.

b) *Less than Significant Impact.* The demand for groundwater associated with future parks and recreational development would be dependent on the location and intensity of the development. As discussed under **a)** and **f)** above, the proposed Master Plan does not identify specific sites for development or grant any entitlements for development. Future parks and recreational projects would be evaluated under CEQA on a case by case basis. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

c-e) *Less than Significant Impact.* The proposed Master Plan envisions increased parks and recreational facilities and programs within the City of Elk Grove. If future recreational projects were to occur in previously undeveloped areas, increased impervious surfaces and grading and vegetation removal activities could increase surface runoff and could therefore exceed the capacity of existing stormwater drainage systems and increase the potential for localized flooding and/or erosion. However, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not include any specific project designs or proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future parks and recreational development occurring within the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Zoning Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific project proposal.

Subsequent parks and recreational projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to hydrology and water quality and Zoning Code requirements associated with creeks and other natural drainage courses/tributary standards. In addition, all-new development projects in the City are subject to the requirements of the NPDES Stormwater Permit No. CA0082597, renewed in December 2002, enforced by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The permit requires that the City impose water quality and watershed protection measures for all development projects and prohibits discharges from causing violations of applicable water quality standards or from resulting in conditions that create a nuisance or water quality impairment in receiving waters. A key component of the NPDES permit is the implementation of the Stormwater Quality Improvement Plan (SQIP) for the City, which consists of six Minimum Control elements and requires stormwater quality treatment and/or Best

Management Practices (BMPs) in project design for both construction and operation. The City has identified a range of BMPs and measurable goals to address the stormwater discharges in the City. There are several regulations/procedures in place that implement the SQIP, including the Grading and Erosion Control requirements established in Chapter 16.44 of the Municipal Code and construction standards. This Chapter establishes administrative procedures, standards for review, and implementation and enforcement procedures for controlling erosion, sedimentation, other pollutant runoff, and the disruption of existing drainage and related environmental damage. The Chapter requires that prior to grading activities, a detailed set of plans be developed that include measures to minimize erosion, sediment, and dust created by improvement activities. Compliance with the provisions of the NPDES, BMPs, and Chapter 16.44 of the Municipal Code would reduce the impacts of future development.

Therefore, the proposed Master Plan would not result in significant impacts to drainage or runoff as no development is proposed and future development envisioned by the Master Plan would be subject to the regulations discussed above.

g-h) Less than Significant Impact. Portions of the City are located within the FEMA-designated 100-year flood zone. However, as discussed under **a-f)** above, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not include any specific project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Future development would be subject to General Plan polices that restrict the placement of any development on land subject to flooding in a 100-year event. In addition, the Zoning Code sets standards for development in areas prone to flooding. Therefore, the proposed Master Plan impacts would be less than significant as no development is proposed and future development envisioned by the Master Plan would be subject to the regulations discussed above.

i) No Impact. The City of Elk Grove is located outside the Folsom Dam Failure Flood Area, which is the nearest dam. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death as a result of the failure of a dam. No impact would occur.

j) No Impact. The City of Elk Grove is not located near any ocean, coast, or seiche hazard areas and therefore would not expose people or structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. No impact would occur.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The City of Elk Grove is characterized by a wide range of existing land uses, consisting primarily of residential and commercial/retail uses. In addition, there are office uses, industrial uses, agricultural uses, and public/private recreation and natural preserve uses. Institutional uses such as schools, churches, and other public entities are also present in the City. Other prominent land uses in the Planning Area include the historic district, a wastewater treatment plant, and two airports (pg. 47, reference #6).

The "Sheldon" area in the eastern portion of Elk Grove is recognized as a unique community within the City that characterizes a "rural lifestyle". Old Town Elk Grove represents a significant local historical resource that contains many of the City's historic buildings. In addition, there are several communities created by specific plans within the City. These include East Elk Grove, East Franklin, and Laguna Ridge.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-b) Less than Significant Impact. The Master Plan is consistent with the land uses envisioned in the General Plan and would not remove policies that currently protect environmental resources. The Master Plan is a policy-level document that envisions an increase in parks and recreational facilities and programs. The proposed Master Plan does not include any specific project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. The Master Plan anticipates land uses that are consistent with the land use designations established by the General Plan Land Use Map. Parks are typically included in development projects to complement the community and provide an amenity for recreational opportunities. Future parks and recreational projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to land use and Zoning Code requirements associated with zoning districts, allowable uses, and development standards. Land use impacts would be less than significant because all future development occurring within the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Zoning Code.

c) **No Impact.** The City of Elk Grove does not have an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or State habitat conservation plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) requires the State Geologist to inventory and classify selected mineral resources within California. The Master Plan covers both the urban and rural areas within the City limits, which has been inventoried to determine mineral resource zones. The area is classified as MRZ-3, areas containing aggregate deposits, the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data. No mineral extraction activities will occur as a result of adoption of the Master Plan.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-b) No Impact. No significant mineral resources have been identified in the City of Elk Grove, nor does it contain any mineral extraction activities. The City is not designated as containing any minerals of regional or local importance. Therefore, no impact to mineral resources would occur.

XII. NOISE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The major noise sources in the City of Elk Grove consist of State Route 99 and local traffic on streets, commercial and industrial uses, active recreation of parks, outdoor play areas of schools, and railroad operations. Residential and other noise-sensitive uses adjacent to area roadways are affected by traffic noise, especially those areas with no soundwalls adjacent to the roadway. Development adjacent to State Route 99 is affected by highway noise. Noise sources associated with service commercial uses such as automotive repair facilities, wrecking yards, tire installation centers, car washes, loading docks, etc., are found at various locations within the City of Elk Grove. The noise emissions of these types of uses are dependent on many factors, and are therefore difficult to quantify precisely.

There are also several existing park and school uses within the City. Noise generated by these uses depends on the age and number of people utilizing the respective facility and the types of activities they are engaged in. School playing field activities tend to generate more noise than those of neighborhood parks, as the intensity of school playground usage tends to be higher. At a distance of 100 feet from an elementary school playground being used by 100 students,

average and maximum noise levels of 60 and 75 decibels (dB), respectively, can be expected. Active railroad operations in the City include the Union Pacific Railroad and the California Traction Company Railroad. An average train operating one of those tracks produces a sound exposure level (SEL) of approximately 105 dB with usage of the warning horn, and approximately 100 dB without the usage of the horn, at a distance of 100 feet. The aircraft noise generation of the airports in the area varies. As part of the General Plan environmental review process, a community noise survey was performed at 7 locations within predominately residential areas in the City and small aircraft was a source of noise at all locations except one.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-d) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Master Plan envisions an increase in parks and recreational facilities and programs. Recreational activities are considered a significant source of noise in the City, and could expose people to temporary or permanent noise levels in excess of standards established in the Elk Grove General Plan. However, the Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not include any site specific designs or project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. The Master Plan anticipates land uses that are consistent with the land use designations established by the General Plan Land Use Element and Land Use Policy Map. Future recreational projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to noise and vibration standards. Therefore, adverse impacts related to a temporary or permanent increase in noise levels would be less than significant with adherence to local regulations discussed above.

e-f) Less than Significant Impact. As discussed under **a-d)** above, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not include any specific project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would expose people to excessive noise levels. Future projects would be subject to the Municipal Code regarding noise sources. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with adherence to the Municipal Code regarding noise sources.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Elk Grove's population in the year 2000 was 72,685 persons (pg. 47, #15). Prior to the City's incorporation in 2000, the population of Elk Grove increased at an average rate of 7 percent annually, or a 70.5 percent increase since 1990 (pg. 47, reference #5). After incorporation, the City experienced rapid growth. The estimated population nearly doubled between 2000 and 2008 to 141,430 persons in 2008, as estimated annually by the California Department of Finance.

In 2007, the City of Elk Grove had a total of 46,495 housing units. The total number of housing units increased an average of 11.17 percent each year between 2001 and 2007, and the majority of housing units built were single-family detached units and multi-family units with 5 or more units per structure (pg. 48, reference #22). According to the General Plan, the City had a buildout capacity of 63,340 housing units and an estimated holding capacity of approximately 194,453 persons (3.07 persons per household multiplied by 63,340 housing units)(pg. 47, reference #6).

However, the City of Elk Grove annexed Laguna West in 2003, adding housing units and acreage available for residential development. Including the annexation of Laguna West in 2003, the City of Elk Grove has a buildout capacity of 68,125 housing units and an estimated holding capacity of 209,143 persons (3.07 persons per household multiplied by 68,125 housing units).

Discussion/Conclusion:

a) *Less Than Significant Impact.* The proposed Master Plan contains parks and recreational goals intended to meet the City's future population growth and would therefore accommodate growth rather than induce it. Furthermore, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document, it does not include any specific project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would induce population growth. Consequently, impacts associated with growth inducing effects of the Master Plan are considered less than significant.

b-c) No Impact. The proposed Master Plan envisions increased parks and recreational facilities and programs to meet the City's future population growth and would therefore accommodate growth rather than induce it. Implementation of the Master Plan would not displace or decrease housing units in the City. Therefore, no impact would occur.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The Cosumnes Community Services District (CCSD) provides fire protection and emergency mitigation to a 157-square mile area that includes the cities of Elk Grove and Galt, as well as the unincorporated areas of south Sacramento County. The CCSD provides fire prevention services, fire rescue services, and emergency medical services including ambulance transportation and pre-hospital care. In addition, a Special Operations Division was formed in 2007 that oversees the specialized rescue, hazardous materials, and disaster preparedness needs for the CCSD (pg. 47, reference #12).

The City of Elk Grove Police Department (EGPD) currently provides a full range of public safety services within the City limits, including responding to all crime-related events, handling all traffic related issues and providing community services to the citizens of Elk Grove. All traffic accidents occurring on freeways that pass through Elk Grove (State Route 99 and Interstate 5) are handled by the California Highway Patrol (pg. 47, reference #11).

The Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) provides public school services for the City of Elk Grove and surrounding areas. The EGUSD boundaries encompass the entire City of Elk Grove, portions of the Cities of Sacramento and Rancho Cordova, and most of southern Sacramento County. Currently, the EGUSD operates 62 schools: 39 elementary schools, 8 middle schools, 8 high schools, 4 alternative education schools, 1 adult school, 1 special education school, and 1 charter school (pg. 47, reference #14). Park and recreation services in the City of Elk Grove are discussed under the Recreation section below.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-e) *Less than Significant Impact.* The proposed Master Plan includes policies and programs designed to facilitate the expansion of parks and recreational facilities and programs to accommodate future population growth within the City. Subsequent parks and recreational projects could result in an increase in demand for public services. However, the Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not include any specific project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future parks and recreational development occurring within the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan. Environmental impacts of subsequent parks and recreational projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific project proposal. Therefore, impacts associated with an increased demand for public services would be less than significant.

XV. RECREATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The Cosumnes Community Services District (CCSD) provides parks and recreation services to the Elk Grove community. The CCSD plans and designs new parks; owns, operates and maintains parks and community centers; manages rentals of community centers, picnic sites and sports fields; and offers recreation programs. As of 2006, the CCSD had 521.9 acres of parkland and 74 parks and offered recreation programs for all ages including special events, preschools, summer camps, teen programs, special interest classes, before- and after-school recreation, non-traditional sports, therapeutic recreation, youth and adult sports and aquatic programming (pg. 47, reference #13).

Discussion/Conclusion:

a) No Impact. The purpose of the Parks Master Plan is to provide the policy basis for coordinating new park land dedication or fees in lieu, as new development occurs. The intent is to develop a proportionate increase in recreational facilities to avoid overburdening existing facilities to the benefit of the community at large. Consequently, no impact regarding the deterioration of recreational facilities will occur.

b) Less Than Significant Impact. The Master Plan is a policy-level document. While it envisions the expansion of parks and recreational facilities and programs, it does not include any specific project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Since there are no specific proposed projects, the demand and requirements for specific parkland acreages, park facilities, financing, and timing associated with the proposed Master Plan cannot be established at this time. Environmental impacts of subsequent parks and recreational projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific project proposal. Therefore, impacts to park and recreation facilities and services would be less than significant.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Roadways are the primary existing transportation facilities within the City of Elk Grove. The existing roadway network consists of freeways, thoroughfares, arterials, collectors, and local streets. Existing bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities are also present in the City, as well as railroads and related facilities that are generally used for movement of goods. The following are some of the major roadways in the City limits of Elk Grove: Interstate 5, State Route 99, Grantline Road, Calvine Road, Sheldon Road, Elk Grove Boulevard, Franklin Boulevard, Bradshaw Road, Bond Road/Laguna Boulevard, Big Horn Boulevard, Bruceville Road, and Elk Grove-Florin Road. The City has established a Level of Service (LOS) threshold, requiring that roadways operate at a minimum LOS "D" (pg. 47, reference #6).

There are no airports within the existing City limits; however, the City of Elk Grove Planning Area falls within the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) areas of Franklin Field, Mather Field, and the Elk Grove Airport/Sunset Sky Ranch (pg. 47, reference #6). The City of Elk Grove operates a local transit system called ETran. Routes are coordinated with Regional Transit buses and light

rail and South County Transit/Link (SCT/LINK) to areas outside the City. Main transfer points are at the Cosumnes River College, Meadowview Light Rail Station and Laguna City Hall (pg. 47, reference #10).

The City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) identifies existing facilities, opportunities, constraints, and destination points for bicycle users and pedestrians in the City of Elk Grove. One goal of the BPMP is to complete a network of bikeways that serves bicyclists' needs, especially for travel to employment centers, commercial districts, transit stops, institutions, and recreational destinations (pg. 47, reference #7). The City also contains a number of multi-use trails that accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. The Elk Grove Trails Master Plan contains a description of existing off-street, multi-use trails in the City and provides direction on where trails should be located and provides design standards and guidelines to describe the desired characteristics of trails (pg. 47, reference #7).

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-b) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Master Plan includes policies and programs designed to facilitate the expansion of parks and recreational facilities and programs to accommodate future population growth within the City. Subsequent recreational projects could result in an increase in traffic on City roadways and a decrease in level of service (LOS) on those roadways. However, the Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not include any specific project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future development occurring within the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Municipal Code. Specifically, the City requires that all roadways and intersections in Elk Grove operate at a minimum Level of Service "D" at all times and would evaluate traffic generated by future projects for compliance with that requirement. Therefore, impacts associated with an increased demand for transportation facilities would be less than significant because the approval of the Master Plan does not authorize or enable the construction of any specific park or recreational facility.

c) No Impact. There are no public or private airports or airstrips located within the City. Therefore, no impact would occur relative to an increase in air traffic.

d-f) Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed under **a-b)** above, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would affect the site design, emergency access, or parking of any developments. Future recreational development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to traffic and circulation. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

g) Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed under **a-b)** above, the proposed Master Plan does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Future recreational development would be required to comply with General Plan policies related to alternative transportation. Therefore, the proposed Master Plan would not conflict with any local policies or municipal code sections supporting alternative transportation.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) provides wastewater conveyance, treatment, and disposal services for the urbanized portion of Sacramento County. The SRCSD operates and maintains more than 70 miles of interceptor pipeline, several large wastewater pumping stations, as well as the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP). The SRWTP treats on average 165 million gallons of wastewater per day (mgd) and is capable of treating up to 400 million gallons per day during peak wet weather flow. The plant operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days per year. County Sanitation District-1, a contributing agency to the SRCSD, collects wastewater in the City, while SRCSD is responsible for major conveyance, wastewater treatment and wastewater disposal. CSD-1 operates and

maintains over 2,600 miles of pipeline and approximately 150 sewage lift stations (pg. 48, reference #21).

The City of Elk Grove is serviced by two different agencies for domestic water service – the Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) and the Elk Grove Water Service (EGWS). The SCWA wholesales water to EGWS. Water sources available to SCWA include a maximum yield 69,900 acre-feet/year (AF/yr) of groundwater, entitlements of 54,900 AF/yr of surface water, and 4,400 AF/year of recycled water. SCWA anticipates its long-term water availability to be approximately 113,000 year, including 40,900 AF/yr of groundwater, 68,637 AF/yr of surface water, and 4,400 AF/yr of recycled wastewater (pg. 48, reference #18).

Solid waste services in the City are provided by several carriers, varying depending on the type of land use and type of waste being disposed of. Allied Waste Services provides residential solidwaste collection services under an exclusive franchise agreement with the City of Elk Grove. These services include collection of all solid waste, residential recyclables, used motor oil and yard trimmings. Commercial waste in the City of Elk Grove, which includes waste generated by multi-family residential developments, is collected through open competition. Individual businesses can contract for waste collection services through a list of haulers that are registered with the City (pg. 47, reference #6 and #9).

a-b); d-e) Less than Significant Impact. Future parks and recreational development in the City would require adequate municipal wastewater service and adequate domestic municipal water service, including adequate water supplies and wastewater treatment capacity. Increases in demand for wastewater and water service can also result in exceedance of wastewater treatment requirements and the need for new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. However, the Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not include any specific project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future recreational development occurring within the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific project proposal.

Therefore, impacts associated with a significant increase in demand for wastewater and water services would be less than significant because the approval of the Master Plan does not authorize or enable the construction of any specific park or recreational facility and future development of these facilities will require individual environmental review.

c) Less than Significant Impact. Increased parks and recreational facilities and programs envisioned in the Master Plan could increase runoff and alter normal drainage patterns on future project sites. As discussed under **a-b); d-e)** above, the Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not include any specific project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Any future recreational development in the City would be subject to further CEQA review. Therefore, impacts associated with the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities is considered less than significant because the approval of the Master Plan does not authorize or enable the construction of any specific park or recreational facility and future development of these facilities will require individual environmental review.

f-g) Less than Significant Impact. As discussed under **a-b), d-e)** above, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document and does not include any site-specific designs or development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Any future recreational

development could increase the demand for solid waste services in the area and could increase the amount of solid waste generated and sent to local landfills. Solid waste collection and disposal for parks and recreational facilities would be serviced by the current private haulers. It is anticipated that the future customers would be served by the City's contracted service provider, currently Allied Waste. Landfills serving the City of Elk Grove have permitted capacity to serve future development consistent with the General Plan (pg. 47, reference #6). The City's Integrated Waste Management program, established in Chapter 6 of the Municipal Code, requires recycling programs that result in a 50 percent diversion away from landfills that apply to new development, including parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, solid waste impacts are considered less than significant.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

NOTE: If there are significant environmental impacts which cannot be mitigated and no feasible project alternatives are available, then complete the mandatory findings of significance and attach to this initial study as an appendix. This is the first step for starting the environmental impact report (EIR) process.

Does the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 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.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion/Conclusion:

a) and c) Less Than Significant Impact. The Master Plan is a policy-level document. While the Master Plan envisions increased parks and recreational opportunities, it does not include specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment to adversely affect human beings. All future recreational development occurring within the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan. Environmental impacts of subsequent recreational projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific project proposal. Future recreational development projects would require compliance with General Plan policies and other City codes and ordinances intended to protect the environment. Therefore, the proposed Master Plan would result in less than significant adverse impacts to the environment or to human beings as a result of environmental degradation.

b) Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed above, the proposed Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not propose any specific development. Therefore, identifying or

analyzing cumulative impacts would be speculative at this time. Future parks and recreational development projects and/or policies would be subject to environmental review, including a review of cumulative impacts. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

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EXHIBIT B

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Negative Declaration Response to Comments

Elk Grove Water Service, Leo D. Havener Jr.

Comment 1: The commenter states that although the Master Plan document is a policy document and is not intended to demonstrate specific locations or build requirements of park and recreational facilities, it should be noted that any new development could have a significant impact on existing water production and distribution facilities under the control of the Elk Grove Water Service.

Response 1: Comment noted. The negative declaration states on page 43 that future parks and recreational development in the City would require adequate municipal wastewater service and adequate domestic municipal water service, including adequate water supplies and wastewater treatment capacity. Also, that increases in demand for wastewater and water service can also result in exceedance of wastewater treatment requirements and the need for new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities.

However, the negative declaration goes on to state on page 43 that the Master Plan is a policy-level document that does not include any specific project proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future recreational development occurring with the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific project proposal.

The City of Elk Grove's General Plan provides policies that would ensure that adequate water supply is available for future project specific park development. Specifically, future development of park facilities would be required to be in conformance with General Plan policy PF-3 that requires that water supply and delivery systems be available in time to meet the demand created by new development, or shall be assured through the use of bonds or other sureties to the City's satisfaction.

Projects identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan would require separate CEQA review and would also be required to be in conformance with General Plan policies. Therefore, no changes to the negative declaration are necessary.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Kim A. Schwab

Comment 1: The commenter states that in order to mitigate less than significant impacts the CCSD/City should be requiring water quality control features to be consistent with the City/CCSD Phase I and Phase II MS4 permits.

Response 1: Comment noted. Page 28 of the negative declaration states that projects in the City are subject to the requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Permit enforced by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The permit requires that the City impose water quality and watershed protection measures for all development projects and prohibits discharges from causing violation of applicable water quality standards or from resulting in conditions that create a nuisance or water quality impairment in receiving waters. Subsequent project specific parks development would be required to comply fully with these regulations. The

effectiveness of the protection measures would be evaluated under separate CEQA review and no changes to the negative declaration is necessary.

Comment 2: The commenter states that increased volumes and rates of storm water runoff may result in increased downstream flows if not properly mitigated. Furthermore, that a hydromodification management plan should be developed to require controls to manage the increase in the magnitude, frequency, volume and duration of runoff from parks and recreation projects.

Response 2: Comment noted. As stated throughout the negative declaration, The Master Plan is a policy level document, and no specific projects or proposals are proposed. However, page 28 of the negative declaration states that subsequent parks and recreational projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to hydrology and water quality and Zoning Code requirements associated with creeks and other natural drainage courses/tributary standards. In addition, all new development projects in the City are subject to the requirements of the NPDES Stormwater Permit No. CA0082597, (recently renewed in September 2009 per Order# R5-2008-0142), enforced by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The permit requires that the City impose water quality and watershed protection measures for all development projects and prohibits discharges from causing violations of applicable water quality standards or from resulting in conditions that create a nuisance or water quality impairment in receiving waters. A key component of the NPDES permit is the implementation of the Stormwater Quality Improvement Plan (SQIP) for the City, which consists of six Minimum Control elements and requires stormwater quality treatment and/or Best Management Practices (BMPs) in project design for both construction and operation. The City has identified a range of BMPs and measurable goals to address the stormwater discharges in the City. There are several regulations/procedures in place that implement the SQIP, including the Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance (Chapter 44 of Title 16 of the City of Elk Grove Code) and construction standards. This ordinance establishes administrative procedures, standards for review, and implementation and enforcement procedures for controlling erosion, sedimentation, other pollutant runoff, and the disruption of existing drainage and related environmental damage. The ordinance requires that prior to grading activities, a detailed set of plans be developed that include measures to minimize erosion, sediment, and dust created by improvement activities. Compliance with the provisions of the NPDES, BMPs, and the City's Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance would reduce the impacts of future development. No changes to the negative declaration are necessary.

Department of Transportation, Alyssa Begley

Comment 1: The commenter states that at such time as the needed park facilities identified in the Master Plan become park project proposals, Caltrans District 3 should be included in any circulation or environmental impact documents that would be generated and have the opportunity to comment on any potential traffic and/or construction impacts that may be created on the State Highway System.

Response 1: Comment noted. Caltrans District 3 will be notified and will have the opportunity to comment on any specific park projects being processed by the City.

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, Sarena Deebie

Comment 1: The commenter provides some background on assumed densities for specific land use categories shown in the SRCSD's Master Plan and goes on to say that any proposed changes in zoning may cause an increase in the assumed design flows in some areas which could result in capacity deficiencies within the Master Planned conveyance systems. Furthermore, that sewer studies on each specific area will need to be completed to fully assess the impacts of any zoning code changes that have the potential to increase the flow demand.

Response 1: Comment noted. Future parks development projects will be evaluated under a separate CEQA review. Specifically, future projects will need to be in conformance with General Plan policies PF-1 and PF-2 that require that sufficient capacity in all public services and facilities be available on time to maintain desired services levels and that the City is required to coordinate with outside service agencies such as the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District.

**CERTIFICATION
ELK GROVE CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2010-92**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO) **ss**
CITY OF ELK GROVE)

I, Jason Lindgren, Interim City Clerk of the City of Elk Grove, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly introduced, approved, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Elk Grove at a regular meeting of said Council held on May 12, 2010 by the following vote:

AYES : COUNCILMEMBERS: *Scherman, Detrick, Davis, Hume*

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*

ABSTAIN : COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: *Cooper*



**Jason Lindgren, Interim City Clerk
City of Elk Grove, California**