

4.0 CUMULATIVE SCENARIO

The term “cumulative impacts” refers to the combined effect of project impacts with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. Both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the *State CEQA Guidelines* require that cumulative impacts be analyzed in an EIR. As set forth in the *State CEQA Guidelines*, the discussion of cumulative impacts must reflect the severity of the impacts, as well as the likelihood of their occurrence; however, the discussion need not be as detailed as the discussion of environmental impacts attributable to the project alone. As stated in CEQA, “a project may have a significant effect on the environment if the possible effects of a project are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.”

According to the *State CEQA Guidelines*:

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

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

In addition, as stated in *State CEQA Guidelines*, it should be noted that:

Either:

- A list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, including, if necessary, those projects outside control of the agency, or*
- A summary of projections contained in an adopted general plan or related planning document, or in a prior environmental document which has been adopted or certified, which described or evaluated regional or area wide conditions contributing to the cumulative impact. Any such planning document shall be referenced and made available to the public at a location specified by the lead agency.*

For purposes of this environmental impact report (EIR), Impact Sciences proposes to use the buildout of the 2003 City of El Paso de Robles General Plan.¹ The general plan EIR was conducted at a program level of detail. A program EIR allows the Lead Agency to consider broad policy alternatives and programwide mitigation measures early in the program process; subsequent project-specific activities conducted under the general plan are evaluated in light of the program EIR to determine if additional environmental

¹ City of El Paso de Robles, *City of El Paso de Robles General Plan*, prepared by Rincon Consultants, Inc., adopted December 16, 2003.

documentation is required (*State CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15168(b) and (c)). In cases where further compliance is required, the environmental analysis will tier from the program EIR.

The 2003 general plan provides for growth and development through the year 2025, as shown in **Table 4.0-1, General Plan Development Potential**.

**4.0-1
General Plan Development Potential**

Land Use	Existing (2003)	Potential New Development (2025)			Subtotal	Total
		City Limits	Sphere of Influence	Expansion Areas		
Residential	9,694 du	4,878 du	990 du	308 du	6,593 du	16,287 du
Commercial	4,044,000 sf	1,498,000 sf	0 sf	0 sf	2,896,000 sf	6,940,000 sf
Industrial	2,093,000 sf	1,498,000 sf	0 sf	0 sf	1,498,000 sf	3,591,000 sf

Notes: du = dwelling unit, sf = square foot

Source:

Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2003.