

3.0 Cumulative Projects

Section 15130 of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR discuss cumulative impacts of a project when the project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable, as defined in section 15065(c). Section 15355 of the State CEQA Guidelines defines “cumulative impacts” as two or more individual effects that, when considered together, are either considerable or compound other environmental impacts.

A typical “project specific” cumulative analysis looks at the changes in the environment that result from the incremental impact of development of a proposed Project and other reasonably foreseeable projects that have not been included in the environmental setting. For example, the air quality impacts of two projects in close proximity may prove to be insignificant when project emissions are analyzed separately, but could be significant when these emissions are combined and analyzed together. While these projects may be unrelated, their combined (i.e., cumulative) air quality impacts would be significant.

The goal of the cumulative project analysis is to identify those reasonably foreseeable projects that could have spatial and temporal overlaps with the proposed Project. These projects could have a potential for a significant cumulative environmental impact. Projects with temporal overlaps include those that are planned to occur during the same timeframe as the proposed Project. Projects with spatial overlaps are those that would have impacts in the same area or on the same resources as those of the proposed project (e.g., emissions that could affect the same air basin). The following discussion provides a description identifying other related future projects near the location of the proposed Project and alternatives.

3.1 Boundary of Cumulative Projects Study Area

Cumulative projects include those projects that, in conjunction with the proposed project, can potentially cause cumulatively significant adverse environmental impacts. The area within which cumulative impacts could occur depends upon the project activity and type of impact. For routine operations, the cumulative impact study area is the area surrounding the project facilities.

For this proposed Project, the cumulative impact study area includes the immediate vicinity surrounding the Project Site and the proposed crude and gas pipelines in the City of Whittier and the unincorporated Los Angeles County community of South Whittier (see Figure 2-8).

Greenhouse gas emissions would have cumulative impacts well beyond the region, and this analysis will consider them relative to both regional and statewide emissions. Under risk of upset conditions and for impacts involving biological resources, geology, air quality, noise, traffic, and recreation, the cumulative impact study area would extend beyond that region to include the following communities (see Figure 2-1):

- Unincorporated Los Angeles County: Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights;
- City of La Habra Heights;

- City of La Habra; and
- City of La Mirada.

Other public agencies with jurisdictional interests in the western Puente Hills include the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) and the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority.

3.2 Description of Cumulative Projects

3.2.1 General Description of Cumulative Environment

The Project Site is within property owned by the City of Whittier and is part of the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preserve (Preserve) as shown in Figure 2-1. The Preserve is located at the eastern edge of Los Angeles County, bounded by the San Gabriel River on the west and the Chino Hills to the east. With 3,860 acres, the Preserve extends across the boundaries of three jurisdictions: the City of La Habra Heights; the City of Whittier; and the communities of Rowland Heights and Hacienda Heights, both in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

The City owns approximately 1,290 acres of former oil fields in the Preserve. This area is commonly known as the Whittier Main Oil Field. The proposed Project Site is a subset of the Preserve in the southwestern area of the Preserve. The oil and gas production and processing facilities will be physically located at a single site within the Whittier Main Oil Field.

The Preserve is almost completely surrounded by urban development except for undeveloped lands east of the Preserve and west of Chino Hills State Park and Whittier Narrows to the northwest (see Figure 2-1). Development consists primarily of suburban, single-family residential development associated with the surrounding communities of Whittier, La Habra Heights, Hacienda Heights, and Rowland Heights. Whittier College is located to the south near Worsham Canyon. Rose Hills Memorial Park owns a large area in the northwestern Puente Hills between Whittier and Hacienda Heights. Some of this land has been developed as a cemetery, while other portions are undeveloped. The Puente Hills Landfill is northeast of the Rose Hills Memorial Park and adjacent to the Preserve. Savage Canyon Landfill, owned by the City of Whittier, is adjacent to the middle southern portion of the Preserve. Single -family homes, Murphy Ranch Little League, and a portion of the Friendly Hills Country Club golf course in Whittier are adjacent to the Preserve as well.

3.2.1.1 City of Whittier

The City of Whittier currently has seven cumulative projects that are of a scale and location that could cumulatively add to Project impacts. Table 3-1 identifies these cumulative projects.

Table 3-1 City of Whittier Cumulative Projects

#	Cumulative Project	Description
1	The Gables – 16050 Whittier Boulevard	96-unit condominium complex (29 units constructed; 67 units to be constructed)
2	Whittier Area Community Church – 8175 Villaverde Drive	New church sanctuary consisting of 34,000 square feet and 486 additional parking spaces
3	Sprouts Market – 15801 Whittier Boulevard	24,500-square foot retail grocery store
4	Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital – 12401 Washington Boulevard	Net increase in floor area of approximately 105,600 square feet to the existing 650,000-square foot facility
5	LINC Housing Corp. – Pickering Avenue & Philadelphia Street	21-unit affordable housing (condos)

Source: City of Whittier 2011

3.2.1.2 County of Los Angeles

Several portions of the cumulative impact study area fall within the County of Los Angeles unincorporated areas. These areas include Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights, and South Whittier. Cumulative projects within these areas that are of a scale and location that could cumulatively add to Project impacts are identified in Table 3-2.

3.2.1.3 City of La Habra Heights

The City of La Habra Heights does not currently have any active or proposed cumulative projects in the cumulative impact study area that have completed applications on file with the City of La Habra Heights. However, in December of 2010 Matrix submitted an application to the City of La Habra Heights to develop oil and gas in an existing oil field within the City of La Habra Heights. The project would include: reentering existing wells for recompleting or drilling deeper; drilling new wells; construction of new surface facilities to separate water from oil and to clean produced gas to pipeline quality; construction of a new truck loading facility for shipping oil; and construction of associated pipelines and support facilities. The project would produce up to 1,500 barrels per day of crude oil, 3 million standard cubic feet per day of gas and would involve drilling up to 25 production wells and five injection wells. The City of La Habra Heights project site is approximately 1.6 miles southeast of the proposed Project Site. The City of La Habra Heights deemed this application incomplete due to the lack of complete full-sized drawings; traffic, air quality, noise, hydrology, and lighting studies; pipeline routes; and title reports.

According to Matrix, it has no time table for submitting a revised application; Matrix is the current operator of the site and the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources has Matrix on file as the operator for the site; the site is not a feasible place to economically drill targets to the Whittier Project Site because the targets are too shallow (2,000 to 3,000 feet); and contractually Matrix cannot assume Sempra will allow drilling to reach targets within the Whittier Project Site.

3.2.1.4 City of La Habra

The City of La Habra currently has some cumulative projects that are of a scale and location that could cumulatively add to Project impacts. Table 3-3 identifies these cumulative projects.

Table 3-2 County of Los Angeles Cumulative Projects

#	Cumulative Project	Description
Hacienda Heights		
1	Hacienda Heights Community Plan Update	The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning is developing an update to the existing plan, which is intended to reflect the vision and future of residents, as well as reflect recent changes in the population demographics. An initial Board of Supervisors public hearing was conducted on February 22, 2011, and continued to May 24, 2011. ^a
2	Improving Roads in Hacienda Heights	The 2010-announced project is part of Los Angeles County's effort to improve infrastructure in unincorporated areas. The \$2.3 million project will reconstruct and resurface roadway pavement, as well as reconstruct adjacent sidewalks, driveways, curbs and gutters. ^{b,c}
3	Hacienda Heights Community and Recreation Center – 1234 Valencia Avenue	In December 2009, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved up to \$4.5 million for additional predevelopment and/or construction for the Hacienda Heights Community and Recreation Center. ^{b,c}
4	Pacific Heights Housing Development	Project includes 47 residential lots, 4 open space lots, 1 parking lot, and 1 public facility lot within the Powder Canyon/Puente Hills Significant Ecological Area (SEA #17). ^a
Rowland Heights		
5	Rowland Heights Community Center	In January 2010, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors authorized a \$1,200,828 contract to Gonzalez Goodale Architects for design services, preparation of construction documents, and other related work for the new Rowland Heights Community Center. The project is estimated to begin construction in the spring of 2012 and be completed in the summer of 2013. ^{b,d}
6	Improving Rowland Heights Roadways	The 2010-announced project is part of Los Angeles County's effort to improve infrastructure in unincorporated areas. The project will resurface and reconstruct Pathfinder Road and Alexdale Lane, reconstruct curb and gutter, sidewalk, driveways, and curb ramps. The project is scheduled to be completed by July 2011. ^b
7	Balan Senior Apartments	142 senior apartments in 8 buildings, community center building, and recreation area, located on 6.46 acres.
South Whittier		
8	Improving South Whittier Roadways	The project, announced in 2011, is part of Los Angeles County's effort to improve infrastructure in unincorporated areas. The project includes road improvements for 5 miles of work on Hawes Street, Lambert Road, and other adjacent streets in South Whittier. The project will also reconstruct sidewalks, provide new curbs and gutter, sidewalks, driveways, curb ramps, and new road striping and pavement markings. The project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2011. ^b
Sanitation District of the Los Angeles County		

#	Cumulative Project	Description
8	Puente Hills Intermodal Facility (PHIMF) – City of Industry	The PHIMF project comprises a dedicated rail yard that will support the Sanitation District's waste-by-rail program. Rail-ready shipping containers of non-hazardous municipal solid waste will be transferred between trains and trucks for transport to a remote landfill. The City of Industry certified the Final EIR and approved a conditional use permit for the project in June of 2008. PHIMF is currently under construction and final design completion is anticipated in 2010. Start-up operations are scheduled for 2012. ^e
9	Landfill Gas Wells at Puente Hills Landfill	Project consists of call-outs to construct gas collection wells at the Puente Hills Landfill. The project went out to bid in February of 2010. The selected contractor is obligated to complete any work associated with a call-out that occurs prior to July 1, 2012. ^e

Sources: a. LACDRP 2011a, LACDRP 2011b, and LACDRP 2011c

b. LAC Supervisor Knabe 2011

c. LAC BOS 2009

d. LAC BOS 2010

e. LACSD 2011

3.2.1.5 City of La Mirada

The City of La Mirada does not currently have any active or proposed cumulative projects in the cumulative impact study area.

3.2.1.6 San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

The Conservancy is part of the California Natural Resources Agency and was created by the California legislature in 1999. The Conservancy's mission is to preserve open space and habitat (Conservancy 2010). The western Puente Hills falls within the Conservancy's jurisdiction and has five cumulative projects that are of a scale and location that could cumulatively add to Project impacts. Table 3-4 identifies these cumulative projects.

Table 3-3 City of La Habra Cumulative Projects

#	Cumulative Project	Description
1	Lambert Idaho Specific Plan	38 single-family homes
2	Westridge Plaza PUD Amendment	50,000-square-foot addition to the existing shopping center
3	Hilton Garden Inn	107-room hotel
4	Condominiums	8-unit condominium complex
5	John Laing Homes Residential Project	91 single-family homes
6	Maria Davalos	8,724-square foot restaurant

Source: City of La Habra 2011

Table 3-4 San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Cumulative Projects

#	Cumulative Project	Description
1	La Habra Heights Trail Connectors Plan	The City of La Habra Heights will locate, identify and assess multi-purpose trail conditions that either have or could have connectivity to other trails in the region. The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the City of La Habra Heights entered into a \$50,000 grant agreement in February of 2007, which initiated work on the project.
2	San Gabriel River Discovery Center	San Gabriel River watershed interpretive center design and construction at the Whittier Narrows Regional Park. Final EIR approved by Authority Board in January of 2010.
3	San Gabriel River Trail Connector to Pio Pico State Historic Park	Grant providing for the development of construction drawings and construction of a new class two multipurpose trail.
4	Whittier Narrows Dam Recreation Area Development Plan	Master Plan update to identify sustainable, multi-benefit watershed projects addressing regional open space, recreation, and watershed needs. Draft Plan and Draft EIR to be considered by the Water Conservation Authority in early 2011.
5	Whittier Narrows Equestrian Facility	Phase One planning for facility include new and improved regional equestrian trail connections, habitat enhancement, and stormwater best management practice features.

Source: RMC 2007 & 2011

3.2.1.7 Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority

The Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority does not currently have any active or proposed cumulative projects in the cumulative impact study area.

3.2.1.8 California Public Utilities Commission

In June of 2007, Southern California Edison submitted the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), segments 4 through 11, application to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The TRTP comprises approximately 173 miles of new and upgraded transmission infrastructure for new wind generation development projects. The TRTP transmission route extends south from Kern County through Los Angeles County and east to San Bernardino County (SCE 2011).

The proposed TRTP was determined to be a "project" under CEQA definitions (California Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.). The CPUC is one of two lead agencies because each has primary approval authority over the project; therefore, the CPUC has prepared and certified a Final EIR, SCH # 2007081156, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines 15089 and 15132, in December of 2009 (CPUC 2009).

Since a portion of the project traverses the Angeles National Forest, the USDA Forest Service is also required to approve the project and is, therefore, a lead agency. The USDA Forest Service

approved the project on October 4, 2010 (USFS 2010). The entire project is scheduled to be in full service in the fall of 2014 (SCE 2011).

TRTP Segment 8A, a proposed 500-kilovolt line, would run through several communities in the cumulative impact study area, including the City of Whittier, the City of La Habra Heights, and the unincorporated County of Los Angeles communities of Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights (SCE 2011). Portions of the TRTP Segment 8 that traverse the cumulative impact study area are of a scale and location that could cumulatively add to Project impacts and are considered a cumulative project in this EIR.