

APPENDIX 7.4 INITIAL STUDY

INITIAL STUDY- SONOMA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE (GP 2020)

1. Project Title: Sonoma County General Plan Update (GP 2020)
2. Lead agency name and address: Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD), 2550 Ventura Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95403.
3. Contact person and email number: Scott Briggs, Ph.D., Project Manager, sbriggs1@sonoma-county.org.
4. Project location: County of Sonoma
5. Project sponsor's name and address: PRMD, 2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.
6. General plan designation: The project itself is an update of the County's General Plan
7. Zoning: Varies throughout the unincorporated areas
8. Description of project: The EIR is being prepared concurrently with the proposed General Plan in order to integrate environmental information into the planning process to the maximum extent feasible. The current General Plan was prepared in 1989. It is available on the County's website (<http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd>), as well at the PRMD offices (2550 Ventura Ave, Santa Rosa, California 95403). The work program for the GP 2020 is not a complete update of the entire General Plan, but consists of a policy review that is structured and focused on a list of key issues developed and refined over the past year through an intensive public participation process.
9. Surrounding land uses and setting: As the most northerly of the nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area, Sonoma County is located along the Pacific coastline about 40 miles north of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. The county is just over 1500 square miles, making it the largest of the nine counties. A wide number of land uses and environmental settings are encompassed within the county boundaries and beyond. Land uses range from agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial development. The unincorporated area is predominantly in a natural state, and includes steep mountains and forests, oak trees on rolling hills, grasslands, and wetlands. Sonoma County is bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the west, Marin County and San Pablo Bay to the south, Solano, Napa, and Lake Counties to the east, and Mendocino County to the north. The U.S. Highway 101 Freeway is the major north-south route, connecting the county to San Francisco and Marin County to the south, and to Mendocino County on the north.
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required: The following list is not exhaustive but it is based upon best available information at this time.

Sonoma County's adoption of an updated General Plan- GP 2020 may result in revisions to the County's Development Code, including the Zoning Ordinance. It is possible that changes could be made to other existing County plans and programs as well, depending on the final adopted provisions of GP 2020. A number of future actions may be based (in whole or part) on the environmental evaluation undertaken as part of GP 2020 and the EIR. Review and approval of subsequent development projects may require review and approval by agencies including, but not limited to, the following.

- Sonoma County issues changes of zone, specific plans, tentative tract and parcel maps, conditional use permits, and other discretionary development approvals.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues federal 404 permits for individual development projects and public works projects.
- The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 2 issues state National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for individual private development projects and public projects.
- The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) issues state Section 1600 *et seq.* permits for individual private development projects and public works projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture 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"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning |
| <input checked="" 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 | |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have 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 (a) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (b) 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 on the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature

JANUARY 3, 2003
Date

SCOTT R. BRIGGS
Printed Name

For

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show 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 a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, 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, and then 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 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 Section XVII, “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. 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 that 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) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project’s environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) 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 significance.

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----------|
|--|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----------|

I. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on scenic vista? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

I (a, b, c, d) Potentially Significant Impact: An analysis of impacts on the visual resources and aesthetic character of Sonoma County will be included in the EIR, including impacts of potential development on the County's scenic resources and rural character. The effectiveness of the Community Separators, Scenic Landscape Units, and Scenic Corridor designations, as well as the Greenbelt areas included in the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District's *Acquisition Plan 2000*, will be assessed with regard to potential impacts on the quality of scenic views and vistas. The EIR will also address effects associated with an increase of light sources within the County, including light pollution, light trespass, and glare.

II. AGRICULTURE 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:

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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 Department, to non-agricultural use? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

II (a,b,c) Potentially Significant Impact: The EIR will evaluate the potential conversion of agricultural land uses to non-agricultural uses. Particular attention will be paid to the conversion of timberland to vineyards, plus conflicts between residential and agricultural land uses. The EIR will also address the increase of visitor serving commercial uses on agricultural land, particularly wineries, as well as conflicts with protected agricultural lands (i.e., under a Williamson Act contract).

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:

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

- b) Violate any air quality standard of contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?
- 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)?
- d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
- e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

III (a,b,c,d,e) Potentially Significant Impact: The EIR will describe the current baseline air quality, including federal/state attainment status for air pollutants. It will also provide a consistency analysis with population/employment assumptions used in the development of the Clean Air Plans and evaluate General Plan consistency with the regional Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) designated for implementation by counties. The analysis of future air quality impacts will be based on the BURDEN7G program or another method recommended by the respective air districts. Sensitive receptors and objectionable odors will also be addressed. If the project cannot be found consistent with regional Clean Air Plans, additional measures that could be adopted to eliminate the inconsistency will be recommended.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

- 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 of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- 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 of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- 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?
- 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 nursery sites?
- e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?
- 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?

IV (a,sb,c,d,f) Potentially Significant Impact: The analysis of biological resources will be based on collecting existing information on the county's biological and wetland resources. This will include material received during the numerous meetings held by the Riparian Corridor / Biological Habitat Subcommittee. As necessary, state, federal, and local wildlife biologists will be consulted to determine concerns or specific knowledge of any sensitive resources of particular concern in the county. The EIR will also provide a discussion of the regulatory framework affecting biological and wetland resources, information on the county's vegetation and wildlife resources, and updated information on special-status species, sensitive natural communities, riparian corridors, and other habitats.

IV (e): No Impact: Sonoma County is evaluating riparian corridor designations and building setbacks as part of GP 2020. Because the General Plan must be, by law, internally consistent, there would be no policies that would conflict with those aimed at protecting biological resources.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?
- b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as pursuant to § 15064.5?
- c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?
- d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

V (a,b,c) Potentially Significant Impact: The analysis of cultural resources in the EIR will include a review of data and the information available from the Office of Historic Preservation, the California Historical Resources Information System, as well as any relevant current cultural studies. The potential impact of GP 2020 on historical and cultural resources will be evaluated

V (d) Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated: The potential exists for uncovering historic human burials that cannot be located during cultural resource site surveys. Destruction or disturbance of such resources could be a potentially significant impact. Implementation of the following mitigation measure will reduce the impacts to less than significant: If human remains are encountered during a public or private construction activity, State Health and Safety Code 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the county coroner has made a determination or origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The Sonoma County Coroner must be notified within 24 hours.

If the Coroner determines that the burial is not historic, but prehistoric, the Native American Heritage Commission must be contacted to determine the most likely descendent (MLD) for the area. The MLD may become involved with the disposition of the burial following scientific analysis. Implementation of state law will reduce the potential impact of uncovering human remains to a level of less than significant.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:

- a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving?
- b) 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.
- c) Strong seismic ground shaking?
- d) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

- e) Landslides?
- f) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?
- g) 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?
- h) 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?
- i) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

VI (all impact categories) Potentially Significant Impact: The EIR will assess the potential geologic, seismic, and soil impacts of GP 2020. This section of the EIR will emphasize geotechnical hazards, faulting and seismic hazards, slope stability and landsliding, and soil hazards including subsidence, expansive soils, and erosion. The focus of this section will be to analyze new information on anticipated ground shaking from seismic events; update information on any revisions to Fault-Rupture Zones in Sonoma County; incorporate information on faults and seismicity from the 1997 Uniform Building Code; and review local effects of recent significant earthquakes.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -- Would the project:

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
- 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?
- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

- 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?

VII (a,b,c,d,g) Potentially Significant Impact: The EIR will describe the use of hazardous materials and the treatment and disposal of hazardous waste in the county, as well as the state and federal regulations in place. The impacts of GP 2020 in terms of increasing hazardous waste use and exposing new development to soil and groundwater contamination will be analyzed.

VII (e, f) Less than Significant Impact: GP 2020 does not propose any changes to the locations of existing private or public airports, nor the establishment of any new airport. Development in the vicinity of the County's airports will be required to adhere to the provisions of the *Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan for Sonoma County (CLUP)*, 2001, as well as the policies of the pertinent city general plans where airports are near or within city boundaries. The CLUP includes safety as well as noise compatibility standards. While it is anticipated that air traffic generated at airports within the county will increase along with the county's population and employment base, significant safety hazards are not anticipated to result from these increases because of the existing safety provisions in the CLUP. Similarly, projected increases in air traffic generated at county airports are not anticipated to result in any new hazards beyond those addressed in response to questions XI (e) and (f) (noise).

VII (g) No Impact: The County has adopted an *Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)* that provides procedures to be followed in fire response and flood response. The Fire Services Department provides full-time staff to plan check development permits.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- Would the project:

- a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?
- 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)?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?
- 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?

- h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?
- 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?
- j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

VIII (all impact categories) Potentially Significant Impact: GP 2020 will use an integrated, multi-objective watershed and groundwater basin framework to address the management of water resources in the county. The EIR will analyze the environmental impacts of proposed objectives and policies on surface water and groundwater quality, bank erosion and sedimentation, flooding, and the management of water supplies. This will include a discussion of the adequacies of existing policies versus proposed policies in addressing water resource problems. Proposed surface water and groundwater quality objectives and policies will coincide with state and federal regulatory requirements and will address several aspects of development within the county. Bank erosion and sedimentation are important aspects of water quality. Erosion and sedimentation issues will be dealt with through a series of policies related to road construction, agricultural expansion (vineyards), and riparian setbacks.

Flooding issues are generally associated with an increase in impervious surface area and development within the floodplain. Detention and infiltration practices are some of the measures that will be used to address flood problems within the county. Finally, water supplies are derived from both surface water and groundwater sources. Therefore, the policies and objectives for the management of water supplies will vary throughout the county. Changes in water supply management will concentrate largely on the permitting process associated with groundwater well construction and will depend on surrounding land use and hydrogeology.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING -- Would the project:

- a) Physically divide an established community?
- b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation or 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?
- c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

IX (a) No Impact: The GP 2020 will not make any major land use plan changes; no communities will be divided.

IX (b,c): The EIR will evaluate the impacts of the projected growth and development under revised plan policies on the existing land use patterns in the county. Also, the consistency of GP 2020 with the land use plans of the county's incorporated cities, applicable Association of Bay Area Government Regional (ABAG) plans, etc. will be addressed.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

- a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state?
- 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?

X (a,b) Potentially Significant Impact: Sonoma County contains significant mineral resources that are currently mined in several locations. The EIR will address the potential loss of valuable mineral resources.

XI. NOISE -- 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?
- b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?
- c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above existing levels without the project?
- d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above existing levels without the project?
- 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?
- 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?

XI (all impact categories) Potentially Significant Impact: The noise analysis of the EIR will repeat the noise measurement program previously used in 1986 to obtain a baseline measurement. This will provide perspective on the effects of changes in land use patterns over the last 15 years in Sonoma County. Newly developed areas will also be evaluated. Twenty-four hour noise measurements and short-term sampling will be performed. The noise exposure inventory will also include new noise measurements and predictions for ten industrial noise sources. Noise modeling for transportation-generated noise will be conducted for various county roadway segments, based on the updated traffic. The new County *Comprehensive Land Use Plan* adopted by the Airport Land Use Commission will include revised noise contours due to revised air traffic forecasts. The proximity of sensitive land uses to excessive noise levels will be analyzed. The effectiveness of current County policies and standards will be evaluated.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- 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)?
- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?
- c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

XII (a) Potentially Significant Impact: The EIR will include forecasts of population, households, and employment, using 2000 Census data as the baseline. Provision for affordable housing and farmworker housing will also be addressed

XII (b,c) Less than Significant Impact: The GP 2020 does not include provisions that will result in the displacement of housing. GP 2020 incorporates the *Sonoma County General Plan Housing Element, 2002*. Moreover, the element contains six detailed programs to increase the supply of affordable housing. Sonoma County has had a long-standing policy of promoting development within urbanized areas rather than allowing sprawl. The existing growth management policies in two of its nine planning areas exempt affordable housing from growth restrictions. These growth management policies have not resulted in the denial of any building permits for either market-rate or affordable housing developments.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Would the project result in 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:? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fire protection? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Police protection? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parks? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other public facilities? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

XIII (all impact categories) Potentially Significant Impact: The EIR will evaluate whether forecasted GP 2020 development will result in demand for public services such that new facilities would need to be constructed (with the associated environmental impacts of that). Public service impacts to be analyzed include, law enforcement, fire protection, parks and recreation, public education, and libraries.

XIV. RECREATION

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Would the project 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

XIV (a,b) Potentially Significant Impact: Refer to response for XIII above.

XV. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC -- Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?
- g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

XV (a,b) Potentially Significant Impact: The EIR will include an analysis of effects of the proposed land uses on the County’s transportation system. This effort will focus on a comparison of potential impacts associated with the proposed project and alternatives to existing baseline conditions for the roadway, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and aviation components of the transportation system. Base year land use data for 2000 will be collected. A traffic model (TRANPLAN) will be calibrated and validated, and will include analysis of transit use and carpooling. With the updated traffic model, the GP 2020 EIR will provide a complete assessment of the existing levels of service, a baseline for reevaluation of needed improvements, and a basis for policy development. The 2020 travel characteristics of Sonoma County households will be analyzed and the traffic modeling will provide input to the noise and air quality analyses.

XV (c) Less than Significant Impact: GP 2020 does not propose any changes to the locations of existing airports, nor the establishment of any new airports. Development in the vicinity of the County’s airports will be required to adhere to the provisions of the *Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan for Sonoma County* (CLUP), 2001, as well as the policies of the pertinent city general plans where airports are affected by city boundaries. The CLUP includes safety as well as noise compatibility standards. While it is anticipated that air traffic generated at airports within the county will increase along with the county’s population and employment base, changes in air traffic patterns are not anticipated to result from these increases. Similarly, projected increases in air traffic generated at county airports are not anticipated to result in any new hazards beyond those addressed in response to XV (e) and (f) (safety hazards).

XV (d) Less than Significant Impact: All future roadway development occurring pursuant to the provisions of the General Plan will adhere to applicable standards of Sonoma County pertaining to roadway design. Use of roadways within the county will be required to adhere to applicable provisions of the State vehicle and/or streets and highway codes. Adherence to these standards would reduce any potential impacts related to this issue to a less than significant level.

XV (e) No Impact: The roadway network will be designed, constructed, and maintained to ensure that adequate and efficient emergency access is maintained. Future development within the unincorporated areas of the county shall adhere to applicable emergency access/evacuation guidelines promulgated by the County. Therefore, no impacts associated with this issue are anticipated.

XV (f) Less than Significant Impact: All future development projects occurring pursuant to the provisions of the proposed GP 2020 will adhere to the applicable parking standards of the County, as outlined in the Development Code. Adherence to these standards would reduce potential impacts related to this issue to a less than significant level.

XV (g) Less than Significant Impact: Section 65089(b) (A) of the Government Code requires that general plans contain “trip reduction and travel demand element that promotes alternative transportation methods, including but not limited to carpools, vanpools, transit, bicycles, and park-and-ride lots; improvements in the balance between jobs and housing; and other strategies, including but not limited to, flexible work hours, telecommuting, and parking management programs.” The Transportation Element of GP 2020 will include provisions for increasing transportation alternatives to automobile use. Also, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the regional transportation agency for planning and allocating funding, adopted a Regional Transportation Plan which coordinates regional transportation systems and improvements. All future development projects occurring through the provisions of GP 2020 will adhere to the County and regional policies, plan, and programs in place to support alternative modes of transportation. Adherence to these provisions would reduce potential impacts to below a level of significance.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -- Would the project:

- a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?
- 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?

- 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?
- d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?
- e) Result in the 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?
- f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?
- g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

XVI (a,b,c,d,e,f.) Potentially Significant Impact: The EIR will evaluate whether forecasted GP 2020 development and the alternatives will result in demand for public services such that new facilities would need to be constructed (with the associated environmental impacts of that). Public service impacts to be analyzed include water supply and delivery system, wastewater treatment and disposal, and solid waste disposal.

XVI (g) No Impact: Implementation of the proposed project will result in the development of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and recreational uses, and community and public facilities. The collection and disposal of solid waste will conform to applicable federal, state, and local plans and regulations, including AB 939 (Integrated Waste Management Act) and the *Sonoma County-wide Integrated Waste Management Plan* now being updated. The GP 2020 will contain policies to support the waste management objectives that result from this update.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment substantially reduce the habitat of 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?
- b) Does the project 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)?
- c) Does the project have the environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

XVII (a) Potential to Degrade- Potentially Significant Impact: The GP 2020 has the potential to result in significant impacts on biological and agricultural resources, including the potential to reduce substantially the habitat of certain wildlife and plant species and the loss of important farmland. The EIR will address these issues and any feasible mitigation measures will be identified to avoid and/or reduce any significant impacts.

XVII (b) Cumulative Impacts- Potentially Significant Impact: The GP 2020 will define the extent of future development within the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County. If development within these areas as well as within the incorporated cities were to progress at or near the maximum extent allowed under these agencies' General Plans, considerable cumulative impact may occur and extend beyond the boundaries of the county. Increased traffic is one such anticipated cumulative impact. In addition, it is possible that the impacts of implementing GP 2020 will combine with the impacts of development occurring in surrounding counties to create significant cumulative impacts. An assessment of the cumulative impacts of GP 2020 and adjacent jurisdictions will be conducted, and mitigation measures will be identified in the general Plan EIR to reduce and/or eliminate potentially significant cumulative impacts.

XVII (c) Adverse Impacts on Humans- Potentially Significant Impact: Increases in traffic-related noise and air pollutant emissions, alteration of existing viewsheds, potential seismic and flooding hazards, and the introduction of new lighting and glare sources may have effects on the existing and future residents within the unincorporated portion of Sonoma County. In addition, air pollutant emissions associated with the implementation of the proposed GP 2020 may result in impacts to subregional and/or regional air quality. The EIR will address the severity of these effects generated by the proposed project and identify mitigation measures to reduce and/or eliminate potentially significant impacts.