

8. Impacts Found Not to Be Significant

California Public Resources Code Section 21003 (f) states: "...it is the policy of the state that...[a]ll persons and public agencies involved in the environmental review process be responsible for carrying out the process in the most efficient, expeditious manner in order to conserve the available financial, governmental, physical, and social resources with the objective that those resources may be better applied toward the mitigation of actual significant effects on the environment." This policy is reflected in the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Guidelines) Section 15126.2(a), which states that "[a]n EIR [Environmental Impact Report] shall identify and focus on the significant environmental impacts of the proposed project" and Section 15143, which states that "[t]he EIR shall focus on the significant effects on the environment." The Guidelines allow use of an Initial Study to document project effects that are less than significant (Guidelines Section 15063[a]). Guidelines Section 15128 requires that an EIR contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons that various possible significant effects of a project were determined not to be significant and were therefore not discussed in detail in the Draft EIR.

8.1 ASSESSMENT IN THE INITIAL STUDY

The Initial Study prepared for the proposed project in April 2013 determined that impacts listed below would be less than significant. Consequently, they have not been further analyzed in this Draft EIR. Please refer to Appendix A for explanation of the basis of these conclusions. Impact categories and questions below are summarized directly from the CEQA Environmental Checklist, as contained in the Initial Study.



Table 8-1
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<i>Environmental Issues</i>	<i>Initial Study Determination</i>
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY 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. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. 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 Agency, to non-agricultural use?	No Impact. No important farmland is mapped in the Town by the Division of Land Resource Protection.
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	No Impact. No land in the Town is currently zoned for agricultural use.
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	No Impact. No land in the Town is currently zoned for forest land, timberland, or timberland production use.

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d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No Impact. No forests were identified in the Town in the Biological Technical Report.
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No Impact. There is no mapped important farmland in the Town.
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	Less than Significant Impact. Existing state laws set forth procedures for county coroners upon accidental discovery of human remains.
XI. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?	Less than Significant Impact. The Town lies outside of areas that have been mapped by the California Geologic Survey for mineral resource classification and the United States Geologic Survey does not identify any mines, processing plants, or locations of potential mining resources within Town (USGS 2012).
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?	Less than Significant Impact. See Section XI. a above.
XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:	
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?	No Impact.