

CHAPTER 5 - IMPACT OVERVIEW

5-1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an overview of the proposed project's environmental impacts including unavoidable significant impacts, impacts considered to be less than significant, cumulative impacts, and growth-inducing impacts. Cross-references are made throughout this chapter to other sections in this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) where more detailed discussions of the proposed project's impacts can be found.

5-2 UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS

Section 15126(b) of the *State CEQA Guidelines* requires a description of any significant effects that cannot be avoided if the project is implemented. According to the environmental impacts analysis presented in Chapter 3 of this Final EIR, the unavoidable significant adverse impacts that would occur due to implementation of the proposed project include: air quality (pollutant emissions during construction would exceed South Coast Air Quality Management District significance thresholds), archaeological resources (only if Native American remains are accidentally encountered during construction), and transportation/traffic (if the agencies with jurisdiction over affected intersections determine upon further review that proposed mitigation measures at a particular intersection are not feasible).

5-3 IMPACTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

This Final EIR found a number of potentially adverse impacts not to be significant prior to or after mitigation. These are discussed in Chapter 3 in each of the following categories: visual resources, historical resources, paleontological resources; geology/soils/seismicity; hazardous materials; land use and planning; noise; population and housing; public services; transportation, traffic, and parking; and public utilities.

5-4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

According to Section 15355 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, cumulative impacts refer to:

Two or more individual effects which, when considered together are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental effects. The individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects. The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment that results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time.

Section 15130(a) of the *State CEQA Guidelines* states that:

An EIR shall discuss cumulative impacts of a project when the project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable....When the combined cumulative impact associated with the project's incremental effect and the effects of other projects is not significant, the EIR shall briefly indicate why the cumulative impact is not significant and is not discussed in further detail in the EIR....An EIR may determine that a project's contribution to a significant cumulative impact will be rendered less than cumulatively considerable and thus is not significant. A project's contribution is less than cumulatively considerable if the project is required to implement or fund its fair share of a mitigation measure or measures designed to alleviate the cumulative impact....

The provisions of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15130(b), subdivisions (b)(1) through (b)(3) list the "necessary elements" that define "an adequate discussion of significant cumulative impacts."

According to Section 15130 (b)(1)(A) of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, a list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts may be used as the basis of the cumulative impacts analysis.

In addition, an adequate discussion of significant cumulative impacts includes a summary of the expected environmental effects to be produced by those projects with specific reference to additional information stating where that information is available, and a reasonable analysis of the cumulative impacts of the relevant projects. Lastly, an EIR shall examine reasonable, feasible options for mitigating or avoiding the project's contribution to any significant cumulative effects.

Table 5-1 provides a list of related projects that was compiled in accordance with Section 15130 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*¹ and Figure 5-1 shows the locations of these projects with respect to the proposed project site. This list of related projects in conjunction with existing environmental conditions due to past or recently completed projects formed the basis for the cumulative impacts discussion that follows. Where appropriate, growth projections in adopted local and regional land use plans were also used as the basis for the cumulative impacts discussion.

¹ Since the proposed Master Plan's potential traffic impacts would affect a larger area than other potential project impacts, the related projects list developed for the traffic analysis (see Table 3-35 in Chapter 3) encompasses a larger study area than the related projects listed in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1: List of Related Projects

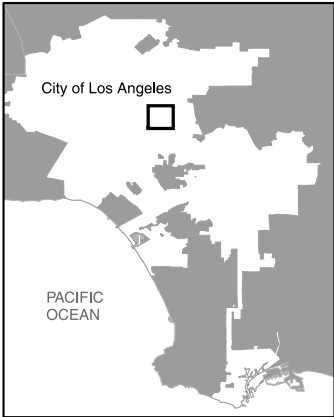
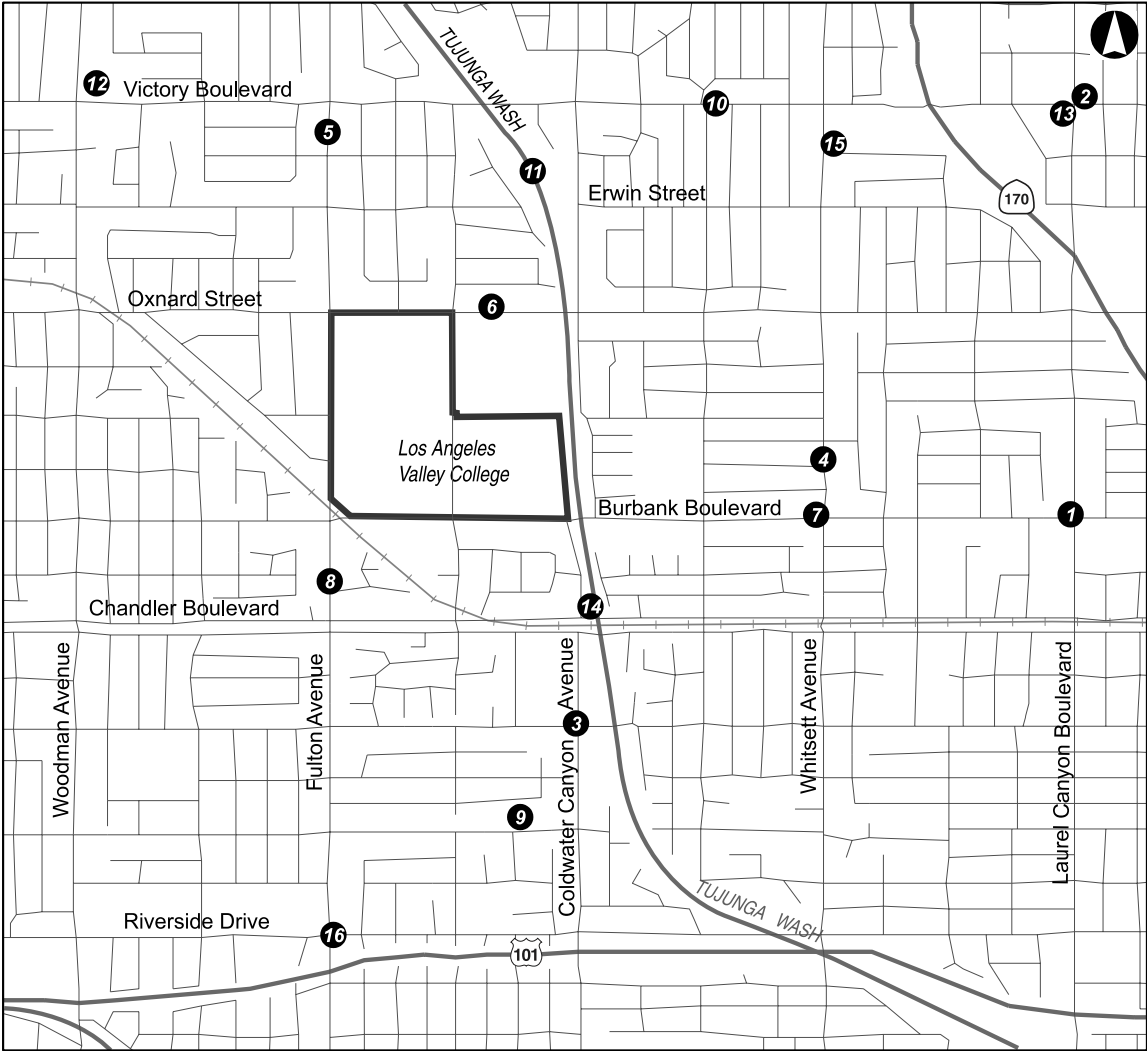
ID #	Projects	Description	Location	Status
1	Laurel Canyon Earthquake Disaster Assistance Project	The repair, restoration, demolition and/or replacement of property that was damaged as a result of the Northridge Earthquake.	248-acre area focused on the major commercial corridors of Burbank Blvd., Victory Blvd., and Laurel Canyon Ave.	Adopted December 1994. To be concluded December 2006, with possible extension to 2011.
2	LAUSD Middle School	Construction of a 180,000-sf middle school on a 9- to 9.75-acre site.	Victory Blvd. and Laurel Canyon Blvd.	Conceptual phase. Construction to begin March 2004.
3	Magnolia Trunk Line Project	Construction of approximately 14,300 linear feet (2.7 miles) of 54-inch-diameter concrete-lined welded steel pipeline along existing street ROW using the open-trench method, except at busy intersections (Magnolia Blvd. at Kester Ave., Cedros Ave., Van Nuys Blvd., Hazeltine Ave; and at Fulton Ave) where the pipeline would be installed using the jacking/tunneling method.	Along Magnolia Blvd. from Coldwater Canyon Ave. to Noble Ave.	Construction to begin in November 2002. To be completed May 2004.
4	Multi-Family Residence	Construction of approximately 20 apartments, 20,000 sf.	5716 Whitsett Ave.	Construction to be completed in 2003.
5	Multi-Family Residence	Construction of approximately 5-10 apartments, 5,000-10,000 sf.	6346 Fulton Ave.	Construction to be completed in 2003.
6	Multi-Family Residence	Construction of approximately 12 apartments, 10,000 sf.	13041 Oxnard St.	Construction to be completed in 2003.
7	Retail	Construction of 8 retail units in a corner strip mall.	12501 Burbank Blvd. (at Whitsett Ave.)	Construction to be completed in 2003.
8	San Fernando Valley East-West Transit Corridor	14-mile landscaped exclusive busway with 13 stations located on the MTA-owned railroad right-of-way (ROW) between North Hollywood Metro Red Line Station and Warner Center in Woodland Hills. The MTA ROW will also be improved with a parallel bike/pedestrian path.	In the East Valley the alignment extends west in the median of Chandler Blvd, crossing the intersection of Fulton Ave. and Burbank Blvd diagonally near Valley College. The route then parallels Oxnard St. to Sepulveda Blvd.	Construction to begin January 2003, to be completed by April 2005.
9	San Fernando Valley Traffic Corridor Signal System Improvements	Retrofit 476 Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control (ATSC) signalized intersections	A 1.5-mile wide corridor south of Burbank Blvd, between Vineland Ave. and Valley Circle Blvd./Mulholland Dr.	Construction to be completed August 2003

Table 5-1: List of Related Projects

ID #	Projects	Description	Location	Status
10	Street Lighting Program	Installation of several street lights.	Victory Blvd/Goodland Ave. to Babcock Ave.	In design phase. Construction to be completed in late 2003.
11	Tujunga Wash Project	Improvement on both sides of the Tujunga Wash, with a diverted stream and landscaped walking trails on the west side of the wash. Installation of an irrigation system and decorative gates and fences around improved areas.	Tujunga Wash between Oxnard Street and Vanowen Street	30% design complete.
12	Valley Glen Neighborhood Block Grant Program	Improvement of approximately 20 building facades on Victory Blvd., possible sidewalk improvements along Fulton Ave. between Victory Blvd. and Vanowen Street.	Bounded by Raymer Street, Victory Blvd., Woodman Ave., and Coldwater Canyon Ave.	Contracts in approval process.
13	Valley Plaza Revitalization	Renovation of existing shopping center. 725,000 sf of retail; 44,000 sf restaurant; 270,000 sf existing Sears; 104,000 sf office space.	Victory Blvd. and Laurel Canyon Blvd.	Conceptual phase. Construction to begin March 2004 and be completed by March 2005.
14	Self storage warehouse	Demolition of existing health club & construction of a 60,250-sf self-storage facility with 26 parking spaces.	Coldwater Canyon Ave. and Chandler Blvd.	Proposed, construction has not commenced.
15	Private Elementary School	Construction of a 16,000-sf private elementary school.	Sylvan St. and Whitsett Ave.	Proposed, construction has not commenced.
16	Gas Station/Convenience Store	Conversion of gas station/repair to gas/convenience store.	Riverside Dr. and Fulton Ave.	Proposed, construction has not commenced.

Source: Myra L. Frank & Associates, Inc., 2003.

Figure 5-1: Locations of Related Projects



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau TIGER Data, 1995; Myra L. Frank & Associates, Inc., 2003.



*Please see Table 5-1 for a detailed description of the related projects.

The following sections describe in detail the cumulative impacts of the proposed Los Angeles Valley College Facilities Master Plan and other related projects and development. In summary, the proposed Master Plan could contribute to significant cumulative impacts in the following areas: air quality, noise, public services, traffic/transportation, and public utilities. However, it should be noted that the proposed Master Plan's contribution to some of these significant cumulative impacts would be minimal.

5-4.1 Visual Resources

Potential cumulative visual impacts could occur if other projects in combination with the proposed Master Plan development cumulatively contribute to the degradation or deterioration of the visual setting, or damage to scenic views or vistas. Thus, the study area for the cumulative visual impact analysis would consist of the general area in the immediate vicinity of the campus, including those areas that can be viewed from, or have views of, the campus.

It is not anticipated that the 16 related projects listed in Table 5-1 would result in significant cumulative visual impacts for several reasons. First, the projects tend to be dispersed throughout the study area and are not concentrated in any single area cumulatively affecting a particular visual resource. Most of the projects are also relatively small in size and do not include large-scale commercial or industrial projects that would have a greater potential to result in adverse visual impacts. Additionally, no significant scenic resources, vistas, or views have been identified in the community that would be cumulatively affected by the related projects.

Valley College possesses moderately high visual quality at present due in large measure to the extensive landscape features incorporated as part of the campus, including mature trees on the campus perimeter and bordering the academic buildings that screen views into the campus. The proposed Master Plan will not change these landscape features in any significant way. The project's visual impacts, which are less than significant, are limited to those due to the demolition of existing buildings (e.g., Physics Chemistry, Library, and Cafeteria) and the construction of new buildings in their place. Views of these buildings are generally confined to the campus or immediate surrounding area, and thus they are not prominent visual landmarks that are visible from a wide area within the community. Furthermore, due to the essentially flat topography to the west, north and east, views of the central core campus from the surrounding community are limited.

Consequently, the related projects and the proposed Master Plan are not expected to result in significant cumulative visual impacts above and beyond the impacts that would occur due to the proposed project itself.

5-4.2 Air Quality

Air pollutants generated by construction activities and by stationary or mobile sources during operation of the proposed project may adversely affect sensitive receptors in the immediate vicinity of the pollutant source. Pollutants may also be transported many miles and contribute to exceedances of state or national standards at monitoring locations in the air basin encompassing the project site. Consequently, the geographic scope of the area affected by potential cumulative

air quality impacts would include the immediate project area and the much larger South Coast Air Basin (Basin). The Basin is designated a non-attainment area for carbon monoxide, PM₁₀ (particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter), and ozone. The Basin is the nation's only "extreme" ozone non-attainment area.

Related projects in the area and other cumulative development in the Basin would contribute to cumulatively significant localized and regional construction and operational air quality impacts.

As indicated in Section 3-3, construction of projects proposed under the Master Plan would result in emissions of carbon monoxide, reactive organic compounds, nitrogen oxide, sulfur oxide, and PM₁₀. The estimated emissions of nitrogen oxides and PM₁₀ would exceed South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) significance thresholds on the peak construction day and peak quarter. After implementation of proposed mitigation measures, emissions of nitrogen oxides generated during project construction (peak day and peak quarter) would still exceed SCAQMD significance thresholds. Emissions of PM₁₀ would still be significant on the peak day after implementation of proposed mitigation measures. If the proposed project is constructed simultaneously with other related projects, substantial amounts of pollutant emissions could be generated. These emissions could cumulatively affect sensitive receptors in the immediate project vicinity and also contribute to the Basin's poor air quality, a potentially significant impact. Related projects in the immediate vicinity of the campus include: the construction of a 12-unit apartment complex at 13041 Oxnard Street, construction of the San Fernando Valley East-West busway immediately southwest of the campus along the railroad right-of-way, and construction of a 60,250-square-foot self storage warehouse at Coldwater Canyon Avenue and Chandler Boulevard. Although implementation of the mitigation measures identified in Section 3-3 of this EIR would reduce the project's contribution to cumulative air quality impacts, the impact after mitigation may still be cumulatively considerable and significant for several criteria pollutants.

Operation of the proposed project would result in significant emissions of three of the five criteria pollutants, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds. Because of the Basin's poor air quality, pollutants generated by the proposed project and cumulative development in the Valley College area and elsewhere in the Basin could have a potentially significant cumulative adverse impact on Basin air quality. Measures such as promoting carpooling and use of transit to reduce automobile vehicle miles traveled would reduce operational emissions from mobile sources due to cumulative development. Additionally, the 1999 Air Quality Management Plan identifies strategies and specific measures to improve air quality in the Basin. The increase in emissions that arises from population growth and the services this added population requires are accounted for in the Air Quality Management Plan. Measures and programs are contained in the Management Plan to offset the adverse effects on air quality resulting from this growth.

5-4.3 Historical Resources

The study area for the historical resources cumulative impacts analysis includes the campus of Los Angeles Valley College and a 2-mile radius around the campus, encompassing the Van Nuys and a small portion of the North Hollywood communities. Nine properties were identified within 2 miles of Valley College that are either listed as a historic resources or that were thought to be potential architectural/historic resources. Based on a preliminary review, none of those properties appears to be currently threatened by other related projects and development in the study area identified in Table 5-1 above.

The analysis conducted for this EIR identified the core campus (located between Fulton Avenue and Campus Drive) as being a largely intact and architecturally cohesive potential historic district, united by shared site plan placements, architectural design and landscape features. The Valley College Facilities Master Plan calls for the demolition of the Chemistry, Library, Cafeteria, and Physics Buildings—contributing resources to the potential historic district. However, the buildings are not individually distinctive in architectural terms, and were designed to recede into the landscape. Additionally, new buildings will be designed in conformance with the District’s *Design Criteria and Standards* and will be compatible with the architectural style, details, and scale of the adjacent existing buildings. Consequently, significant impacts to the potential historic district would not occur.

The city of Los Angeles, and local residents, have expressed a commitment to the preservation of historic resources in the Van Nuys-Sherman Oaks Community, as articulated in the community plan and in the commissioning in 2002 of an architectural/historic resources survey of Van Nuys for the potential establishment of an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone. Thus, there is community support for the preservation of historic resources. No other historic resources in the community appear to be threatened by related development. Also, no large institutional facilities in the community with comparable architectural and landscape characteristics to those at Valley College are known to be slated for demolition. The current lack of government funding at the federal, state and local levels for large-scale public facilities construction projects is likely to continue indefinitely and further reduces the likelihood that a cumulatively significant quantity of institutional historic resources would be lost in the near future. Thus, the effect of demolishing buildings on the campus would not result in a significant cumulative impact on historic resources in the area.

5-4.4 Archaeological Resources

The geographic scope of the area affected by potential cumulative archaeological impacts is defined by the cultural setting and ethnographic territory of the prehistoric and historic peoples that have occupied this area of southern California. As discussed in Section 3-5, the project study area is situated in a general region that was inhabited by the Uto-Aztecan Gabrielino cultural group. The total area of the Gabrielino mainland territory exceeded 1,500 square miles and included the San Fernando Valley, the San Gabriel Valley, the San Bernardino Valley, and the Los Angeles-Santa Ana River Plain. Inhabiting the watersheds of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana Rivers; several smaller intermittent streams in the Santa Monica and

Santa Ana Mountains; all of the Los Angeles Basin; and the coastal strip from Aliso Creek in the south to Topanga Creek in the north; the Gabrielino also occupied the islands of Santa Catalina, San Clemente, and San Nicholas.

Related projects in the project area and other development in the county could result in the progressive loss of as-yet-unrecorded archaeological resources. This loss, without proper mitigation, would be a significant cumulative impact. As discussed in Section 3-5 of this EIR, although the archaeological survey of portions of the campus failed to identify the presence of prehistoric or historic archaeological resources, the proximity of the campus to the natural water sources suggests that Native American cultural resources may be present in some campus locations. Thus, the proposed project and related development in the area and region could contribute to cumulatively considerable impacts on archaeological resources. However, the proposed project includes mitigation that would reduce potential impacts of the proposed project to a less than significant level. Related projects that are likely to affect archaeological resources may also implement similar mitigation in addition to data recovery excavations, monitoring, soils testing, photography, mapping, or drawing to adequately recover the scientifically consequential information from and about the archaeological resource. Consequently, after mitigation, the proposed project would not contribute to a significant cumulative impact to archaeological resources.

5-4.5 Paleontological Resources

Based upon the results of previous paleontologic studies in the immediate vicinity of the campus, Los Angeles Valley College is situated upon sediments mapped as Recent alluvium. These sediments consist of clays, sands, and gravels of the San Fernando Valley flood plain, especially the overbank deposits derived from Tujunga Wash along the eastern border of the campus. These sediments have low potential to contain nonrenewable paleontologic resources, due both to the young age of the sediments and to disturbances resulting from development in this region. However, these recent sediments overlie older Pleistocene alluvial sediments in the subsurface. The Pleistocene older alluvium is present at depths ranging from +/-14 feet to 100 feet below the ground surface. This Pleistocene older alluvium has a high potential to contain significant nonrenewable paleontologic resources and is therefore assigned high paleontologic sensitivity (Miller 1971; Jefferson 1991). Accordingly, the geographic scope of the area affected by potential cumulative paleontological impacts would consist of other areas in the region that are geologically similar to the project site and contain similar fossil resources.

Although many of the related projects and cumulative development would be located in areas that have been previously disturbed due to past development, construction activities associated with some related projects could, nonetheless, contribute to the progressive loss of paleontological resources and result in potentially significant cumulative impacts. The proposed Master Plan could disturb or destroy paleontological resources that may exist on the site, a potentially significant impact. Thus, the combined effects of the proposed and related projects could result in potentially significant cumulative impacts to paleontological resources. However, mitigation measures have been identified (see Section 3-6.3 of this EIR) that would reduce potential project-related impacts to below a level of significance. These measures include monitoring, recovery, treatment, and deposit of fossil remains in a recognized repository.

Similar measures may also be implemented for other related projects that have the potential to affect paleontological resources. Consequently, the incremental effects of the proposed project would not contribute to a significant cumulative impact to paleontological resources. Significant cumulative impacts are not anticipated with implementation of the proposed project.

5-4.6 Geology/Soils/Seismicity

Valley College is located near the eastern end of the San Fernando Valley. The San Fernando Valley is an east-west structural trough within the Transverse Ranges geologic province of southern California. Therefore, the appropriate study area for potential cumulative geologic impacts would be the Transverse Ranges geologic province.

Potential cumulative geologic impacts are limited to disturbance of unique geological features, loss of known mineral/energy resources, and exposure of people or persons to seismic hazards.

There are no unique geological features or important mineral/energy resources that would be affected by related projects or the proposed project. Consequently, the proposed project would not contribute to significant cumulative impacts on these resources.

With regard to seismic hazards, other development in the immediate and larger project area would increase the population, thereby exposing more persons to seismic hazards. However, these related projects would be required to comply with applicable building codes and seismic design criteria to minimize potential seismic hazards. The proposed Master Plan would provide new and renovated facilities capable of accommodating a total enrollment of 23,000 students (15,693 full-time-equivalent students) and 381 full-time-equivalent College employees. Development of the new facilities could expose students and employees to hazards from strong ground-shaking triggered by seismic activity on any of the significant active faults in the region. However, the new facilities would also be designed and constructed in compliance with all applicable building and seismic codes, which would reduce potential seismic hazards to building occupants to an acceptable level of risk. Therefore, the proposed project and related development would not result in significant cumulative impacts.

5-4.7 Hazardous Materials

Cumulative hazardous materials impacts would occur when a population or resource is exposed to the cumulative adverse effects of hazardous materials released by the proposed project and one or more related projects. The geographic scope of the area affected by potential cumulative hazardous materials impacts would depend on the migration characteristics of the hazardous materials as they are released into the soil, air, or groundwater. Based on the characteristics of the proposed project and the types and quantities of hazardous materials that would be used on the campus, the study area for cumulative hazardous materials analysis would consist of the immediate project area.

Many of the related projects are unlikely to generate, individually or cumulatively, significant amounts of hazardous materials. The potential for significant cumulative impacts is further

reduced if the related projects are constructed and operated in accordance with applicable hazardous materials laws, statutes, and regulations.

It is unlikely that the proposed project would result in the disturbance or release of significant quantities of hazardous materials during construction that could contribute to adverse cumulative impacts. Operation of the proposed College facilities would involve routine maintenance and other activities that would require storage and use of hazardous materials such as fuels, solvents, paints, chemicals for instructional purposes, and cleaners. Consistent with current practices, all hazardous materials would be properly stored, handled, and disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations, laws, and permit requirements, and in accordance with College and District operating procedures. Safeguards implemented as part of standard practice and in accordance with applicable regulations would include proper labeling, controlled access, secondary containment, and spill prevention measures. Consequently, it is unlikely that the incremental effects of the proposed project combined with the effects of other related projects would contribute to a significant cumulative hazardous materials impact.

5-4.8 Hydrology and Water Quality

The geographic scope of the cumulative hydrology and water quality impacts analysis would consist of the watershed (surface waters) and groundwater basin within which the project is located. Los Angeles Valley College is located within the Los Angeles-San Gabriel Hydrologic Unit designated by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Los Angeles Region Water Quality Control Plan (1994). This hydrologic unit covers 1,608 square miles and is drained by three major rivers—the Los Angeles, the Rio Hondo, the San Gabriel—and Ballona Creek. Within this hydrologic unit, the plan designates Watershed Management Areas (WMAs). The College is located within the Los Angeles River Watershed. According to the Los Angeles River WMA Summary (December 2001) prepared by the RWQCB, the receiving waters for the watershed are impaired due to the large number of point and non-point source discharges.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power defines the San Fernando Valley as the Upper Los Angeles River Area Groundwater Unit. It is comprised of four groundwater basins: the San Fernando, Sylmar, Verdugo, and Eagle Rock Basins. Valley College is located over the middle portion of the San Fernando groundwater basin. Groundwater resources within the LARW have been adversely effected by point and nonpoint source discharges.

a. Surface Waters

Impairment of surface waters is generally a result of pollution from a cumulative discharge from point and non-point sources. Numerous surface waters within the Los Angeles River Watershed are impaired due to the cumulative effects of previously uncontrolled polluted discharge.

Valley College would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) that would meet pollutant removal requirements for a permit under the County of Los Angeles Standard Urban Storm

Water Management Plan. It is anticipated that these BMPs would not only meet the permit requirements, but would also be effective in meeting the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards for removal of pollutants from stormwater discharged to impaired water bodies. Implementation of the proposed Master Plan would enable the College to remove pollutants from the College's stormwater that is discharged to the Tujunga Wash, thereby reducing any cumulative adverse effects to water quality.

The Master Plan would not contribute to a cumulative adverse effect on water quality of local surface waters.

b. Groundwater

As discussed in Section 3-10 of this EIR, the Master Plan would not result in any adverse effects on groundwater resources. Hence, the project would not contribute to any cumulative adverse effects in relation to other related projects in the located in the groundwater basin.

c. Floodplains

No projects under the Master Plan would place structures in a designated floodplain. Therefore, the Master Plan would not contribute to an adverse cumulative effect on floodplains.

5-4.9 Land Use and Planning

The study area for the land use cumulative impacts analysis consists of the land use planning area in which the proposed project is located. The City of Los Angeles General Plan guides land use in Los Angeles. The General Plan Framework Element (Framework), which was adopted in 1996 and re-adopted in 2001, establishes the broad overall policy and direction for the entire General Plan and defines citywide policies that will be implemented through subsequent adoption of and revisions to the citywide elements, the 35 Community Plans, the zoning ordinances, and other pertinent planning programs.

Within each community plan area, the city has established specific goals and policies regarding the long-term intensity and mix of desired land uses. Valley College is located in the Van Nuys-North Sherman Oaks Community Plan Area in the eastern San Fernando Valley.

Cumulative land use impacts from the proposed project and related development in the area could occur when: incompatibility between new development projects and existing sensitive land uses occurs, substantial unplanned changes in the long-term pattern of land use occur, or substantial unplanned changes in the rate or amount of development occur.

The first type of cumulative land use impact would potentially arise as construction activities associated with the proposed project and other related projects create temporary nuisance-like indirect effects such as noise, vibration, air pollutant emissions, traffic congestion, and access disruptions. While these types of effects are generally not considered to be significantly adverse when limited in scope and duration, the additive disruption to sensitive land uses could be considered cumulatively considerable if multiple construction activities coincide within similar geographic areas and/or periods of time. The proposed project would possibly contribute to such

a scenario because it would be constructed in an urban area where a fairly robust level of development has previously occurred and is planned to continue over time. These developments carry with them some amount of temporary annoyance. Nonetheless, certain other factors would largely offset the short-term inconvenience of constructing the proposed project and other related projects. For example, mitigation measures have been included in the proposed project to minimize or eliminate construction-related effects. Also, development of the Master Plan would occur within the campus boundaries. Existing buildings and the distance separating the core campus, where most new construction would occur, from nearby residential neighborhoods would help buffer or reduce nuisance impacts on these sensitive uses.

It is expected that most related projects would be required to comply with adopted land use plans and zoning requirements. It is also anticipated that the related projects would generally be consistent with the overall land use policies and goals of the General Plan Framework. The proposed Master Plan consists of the development of academic and educational related facilities. As such, development of these facilities would be consistent with the goals, policies, and objectives of local land use plans. Consequently, the proposed project and related development are not expected to result in substantial unplanned changes in the long-term pattern of land use or substantial unplanned changes in the rate or amount of development. No significant cumulative land use impacts are anticipated with implementation of the Master Plan.

5-4.10 Noise

a. Construction

Demolition and construction activities associated with the Master Plan would result in increases in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the construction site. Other projects in the immediate vicinity of the campus that could be constructed simultaneously (the San Fernando Valley East-West Busway; 12-unit apartment complex at 13041 Oxnard Street) with the projects proposed under the Master Plan could adversely affect noise-sensitive receptors in the area. However, since construction noise would be temporary, intermittent, and generally limited to daytime hours, and most new construction on the campus would occur within the campus at some distance from off-campus noise-sensitive residential land uses, significant cumulative construction noise impacts are not anticipated.

b. Operation

The Master Plan and construction of other related projects in the area, combined with regional growth, would increase activity in the area and traffic on local streets. The cumulative increases in traffic would increase community noise levels in the area. Considering that the campus is located in an urban area with relatively high volumes of vehicles travelling along major arterials in the vicinity of the campus, existing noise levels at noise-sensitive residential receptors in the project area are relatively high. Consequently, potential cumulative impacts to noise-sensitive receptors due to traffic generated by the proposed Master Plan and other related past, present, and future development projects may be potentially significant. However, it should be noted that the proposed project's contribution to future noise level increases due to project-generated traffic

would be minimal. Additionally, the College would implement additional Transportation Demand Management measures to reduce campus-generated traffic.

5-4.11 Population and Housing

The proposed project and cumulative development within the project area could increase the population, number of employees, and the demand for housing within the Van Nuys-North Sherman Oaks Community Plan Area as well as the city of Los Angeles. Although these increases could be substantial, future growth in the area is anticipated and planned for in various land use plans applicable to the project area including the Van Nuys-North Sherman Oaks Community Plan, the city's General Plan and the Framework Element for the General Plan, and the Southern California Association of Governments' Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide. The environmental documents prepared for the Van Nuys-North Sherman Oaks Community Plan Area, the Framework, and the Regional comprehensive Plan and Guide address the significant cumulative effects of future development that could occur under those plans and identify ways to mitigate those effects. According to the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Section 15130[d]), previously certified EIRs for approved land use plans may be incorporated by reference. Additionally, no further cumulative impact analysis is required if the proposed project is consistent with those land use plans and cumulative effects have been adequately addressed in the previous EIRs. The proposed Master Plan is consistent with local and regional land use plans and the cumulative effects of development were adequately addressed in the EIRs prepared for these projects.

5-4.12 Public Services

The study area for the public services cumulative impacts analysis consists of the service areas for the police and fire stations that serve the College. The study area also includes those schools that serve the communities in the vicinity of the College that could experience increases in population due to implementation of the Master Plan and cumulative development (please see Section 3-13 of this Final EIR for a description of the public facilities that serve the project area).

a. Police Protection

Valley College is located in the city of Los Angeles; however the College is under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) provides services when needed and requested by the LASD. A fair amount of development is proposed for the surrounding area. Proposed projects include new multi-family housing, two new schools, a new busway, renovation of Valley Plaza, new street lights, and a new 60,250-square-foot self-storage warehouse. Although some of these projects include demolition of existing buildings or adaptive reuse, new construction could increase the residential and employee populations in the area. These increases would place additional demand on local police stations, which could require new or expanded facilities. If new facilities are required, the construction of these facilities could result in adverse impacts on the environment. The significance of potential impacts would depend upon the facilities' physical and operational characteristics and the sensitivity of the environment in the vicinity of these facilities. Although such information is currently not known and is somewhat speculative, police protection services cumulative impacts are nonetheless considered to be potentially significant.

However, it should be noted that the proposed Master Plan's contribution to this cumulative impact would be minimal.

b. Fire Protection

Potential cumulative impacts to fire protection services could include the need for additional officers and new facilities in order to maintain acceptable response times. Fire protection services for Valley College and the surrounding area are provided by the City of Los Angeles Fire Department. As discussed above, increases in the residential and employee populations in the area could occur as a result of the proposed cumulative development. As a consequence, demand for fire protection services in the area would increase. The potential increase in demand for services may require additional personnel, equipment, and/or new fire stations to maintain existing levels of service and response times. If new facilities are required, the construction of these facilities could result in adverse impacts on the environment. The significance of potential impacts would depend upon the facilities' physical and operational characteristics and the sensitivity of the environment in the vicinity of these facilities. Although such information is currently not known and is somewhat speculative, fire protection services cumulative impacts are nonetheless considered to be potentially significant. However, it should be noted that the proposed Master Plan's contribution to this cumulative impact would be minimal given that the proposed Master Plan would replace older, substandard buildings with new structures constructed in compliance with current fire and building codes, thereby reducing the fire hazard risk on the campus.

c. Schools

Related projects in the area would include new multi-family housing resulting in an increase of approximately 42 residential units, infrastructure improvements, two new schools (1 public, 1 private), community revitalization, and some retail/commercial development. The new residential development would directly increase enrollment in local schools by an estimated 24 students. Student enrollment could also be indirectly affected by increases in employment due to new non-residential development. As noted in Section 3-13 of this EIR, the proposed Master Plan could indirectly generate a maximum of 18 new students by 2008 due to increases in the persons employed by the College. Although the amount of residential and commercial/industrial development proposed in the area is not substantial, it is possible schools that are currently overcrowded (such as the Erwin Elementary School, see Section 3-13 of this EIR) could be adversely affected by increased enrollment and new or expanded facilities could be required. The impacts could be significant depending on the size and location of proposed school facilities and the sensitivity of the environment in the vicinity of these facilities. Although such information is currently not known and is somewhat speculative, cumulative impacts on schools are nonetheless considered to be potentially significant. However, as noted above, the proposed Master Plan's contribution to local school enrollment over the next 5 years would be relatively minor, approximately 18 students.

d. Recreation Facilities and Parks

Increases in residential and employee populations due to the proposed project and related projects could place additional demands on park services in the area. If additional park facilities were required to maintain existing service levels, significant cumulative impacts could occur. However, the proposed project would redevelop and expand portions of the campus such as the athletic fields and complexes and would increase the amount of green space on campus. As such, these newly renovated and expanded areas may help alleviate some of the additional demand that may be placed on existing parks due to cumulative development in the area. Given this fact and because the increased demand for local park and recreational facilities due to the Master Plan would be minimal, the Master Plan would not result in or substantially contribute to a significant cumulative impact on recreational facilities and parks.

5-4.13 Transportation/Traffic and Parking

The geographic scope of the cumulative traffic impact analysis generally consists of the major streets and highways in the vicinity of the project site. In consultation with the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), a scope was developed for the traffic study for this EIR that identified 40 study intersections as worthy of analysis (see Section 3-14).

Direct project impacts on the street system in the vicinity of the project site were identified in Section 3-14 of this EIR using significance criteria established by LADOT and by the Los Angeles County Congestion Management Program (CMP). As discussed in Section 3-14.2, impacts exceeding the LADOT threshold criteria have been projected at 10 of 40 study intersections in the vicinity of the project, with mitigation identified for each. As discussed in Section 3-14.2, no impacts exceeding the CMP threshold criteria have been identified at CMP freeway or arterial monitoring locations.

In addition to the project impacts identified in Section 3-14.2, however, the project also has the potential to contribute to significant cumulative impacts at locations that are operating poorly under cumulative conditions even though the project's addition of trips does not exceed LADOT or CMP threshold criteria. The Valley College campus is located within the San Fernando Valley portion of the city of Los Angeles. Traffic congestion is experienced on many freeways and surface streets throughout the greater Los Angeles area in general and the San Fernando Valley in particular during peak periods.

The *2002 Congestion Management Program* notes that the Los Angeles County freeway system is highly congested, with nearly half of the system operating at the two most congested levels (LOS E and F) during both the morning and afternoon peak hours. In the vicinity of the project, data from the *2002 Congestion Management Program* shows that the Hollywood Freeway currently operates at LOS E during the morning peak hour and the San Diego and Ventura Freeways currently operate at LOS F during both the morning and afternoon peak hours in the vicinity of the project site. Furthermore, the intersection analysis in Section 3-14.2 of this EIR showed that 22 of the 40 study intersections are projected to operate at LOS E or F under cumulative with project conditions.

As such, the project would be expected to contribute to locations that are either currently experiencing congestion or would experience congestion under cumulative future conditions.

The incremental addition of a small amount of project-generated traffic to poorly performing locations would constitute a contribution to significant cumulative impacts at these locations.

Mitigation measures were identified in Section 3-14.3 for the direct project impacts identified using the LADOT significance criteria. The reduction in campus-generated trips due to enhanced Transportation Demand Management measures would help to alleviate the project's contribution to significant cumulative conditions throughout the street and freeway system.

Regional programs such as the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) prepared by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority; the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and the Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP) prepared by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG); and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) prepared by the California Department of Transportation are all intended to address the cumulative mobility needs of Los Angeles County. The LRTP recommends highway, HOV, bus, rail, and demand management improvements and identifies funding sources and implementation schedules. The RTP forecasts long-term transportation demands for the five-county SCAG region and identifies policies, actions, and funding sources to accommodate these demands, including construction of new transportation facilities, transportation systems management strategies, transportation demand management strategies, and land use strategies. The RTIP and STIP are programming documents listing all of the funded/programmed regional improvements.

Additional measures to address significant cumulative conditions are beyond the ability of any individual project to implement and, as such, the project's incremental impacts on poor cumulative conditions would be considered significant and unavoidable.

5-4.14 Public Utilities

The study area for the public utilities cumulative impacts analysis consists of the area served by regional utility facilities and providers and the immediate project area, which would include local water, sewer, gas, and power conveyance and distribution lines that serve the project site.

a. Water Supply

The amount of proposed development in the surrounding area is not substantial and consists primarily of expansion of existing facilities or infill projects. Consequently, it is not anticipated that major improvements to the local water conveyance system that could result in significant impacts to the environment would be required. Additionally, implementation of the Master Plan would not require new offsite improvements to local water lines to accommodate the increased demand generated by the College. Consequently, it is not expected that the proposed Master Plan and other development in the area would result in significant cumulative impacts to the local water conveyance system that serves the area.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has the capacity to deliver water to its customers in excess of 1.117 billion gallons per day and has estimated that the long-term safe yield of its water supplies is approximately 1.098 billion gallons per day. According to the

LADWP, the city's water demand is expected to grow to 756,000 acre-feet per year (674 million gallons per day) by the year 2015.² Since LADWP appears to have adequate supplies and capacity to meet the demand generated by planned growth within their service areas, significant regional cumulative impacts are not anticipated.

b. Wastewater

Wastewater flows from the campus enter city sewer lines in Fulton Avenue and Ethel Avenue. Given the locations of related development projects in the area, the proposed project is not expected to contribute to significant cumulative impacts on local sewer lines that convey wastewater from the campus.

The city of Los Angeles operates the Hyperion Treatment Plant (HTP), which treats an average flow of 362 million gallons per day (mgd) with a capacity of 450 mgd for both primary and secondary treatment. Based on city projections of the capacity or service life of HTP, it is expected that treatment capacity will not be exceeded before the year 2010. Also, in order to ease demand at HTP, the city operates both the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant and the Glendale Water Reclamation Plant with capacities of 80 mgd and 20 mgd, respectively. Future proposed increases in treatment capacities at these two plants would reduce wastewater flows at HTP. Since capacity is adequate to serve wastewater flows generated by planned growth, no significant regional cumulative impacts would occur.

c. Solid Waste

Cumulative impacts to local landfills could occur from implementation of the Master Plan and from increased residential and employee populations as a result of the related projects and regional growth. Development of the Master Plan would implement waste diversion methods; however, due to diminishing landfill capacity in the region, the proposed project and other cumulative development could have a potentially significant cumulative impact on solid waste facilities.

d. Energy

Related projects and cumulative development in the areas served by the energy providers could result in substantial increases in energy demand. However, energy suppliers to the campus have and are expected to have adequate supplies to meet demand in the near future. Additionally, it should be noted that the College will implement energy saving measures throughout the campus in accordance with the sustainable design guidelines set forth in the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design Guidelines (LEED) program. Consequently, the proposed project and other development are not expected to result in significant cumulative energy impacts.

e. Storm Drains

² www.ladwp.com/water/supply/facts/index.htm; July 2002.

Runoff from cumulative development in the area could have a potentially significant impact if stormwater flows exceed the capacity of the existing drainage system. Since development of the Master Plan would reduce the area on the campus covered by impervious surfaces and the Master Plan would include stormwater treatment facilities, the proposed project would not result in an increase in stormwater flows to the local storm drain system. Therefore, the proposed Master Plan would not contribute to significant cumulative drainage impacts.

5-5 IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Construction and operation of individual buildings and facilities proposed under the Master Plan would result in an irreversible commitment of nonrenewable resources, including fossil fuels, water, natural gas, and building materials such as lumber, concrete, and steel (see Section 3-16 for a discussion of public utilities). Use of these resources, however, would not substantially deplete existing supplies. Additionally, such consumption is justified given the anticipated educational, social, and aesthetic benefits of the proposed Master Plan projects. It should also be recognized that the use of any site on the campus would not be irreversible. Buildings and other improvements constructed on the campus could at some time in the future be demolished, altered, or converted to make way for other uses as future generations see fit. Demolition of several buildings on campus that contribute to the potential historic district would be an irreversible environmental change. However, the impact would not be significant because the buildings are not individually historically significant and new buildings constructed in their place would not result in a substantial adverse impact on the attractive spatial and landscape relationships found within Quadrangle area nor would the new buildings adversely affect the spatial relationships between buildings that characterize the original campus master plan.

5-6 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

According to Section 21100(b)5 of CEQA, “the growth-inducing impact of the proposed project” shall be discussed in the EIR. The *State CEQA Guidelines* (§15126.2[d]) further state that the EIR shall “discuss the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment.”

It is anticipated that the proposed Master Plan would induce some growth in the project area. In the fall of 2002, there were an estimated 19,309 students enrolled at the College and 324 full-time-equivalent (FTE) College employees. In the 2008-2009 academic year, with implementation of the projects proposed under the Master Plan, it is anticipated that College enrollment would increase by 19 percent to approximately 23,000 students and there would be 381 FTE College employees, an increase of approximately 18 percent over the fall 2002 numbers. The increases in the number of students commuting to school would increase the demand for goods and services in the area. Since the campus is located in a developed urban area, it is expected that existing businesses in the area could accommodate a good percentage of this demand; however, the increases in the student and residential populations may induce a limited amount of new development. This new development could result in impacts to the environment. However, it should also be noted that it is unlikely that the proposed project would induce development beyond that anticipated in local land use plans. Rather, the project would

accommodate increases in student enrollment that are likely to occur due to the projected increases in population in the area forecast in local plans.³ Additionally, the proposed project does not include substantial increases in infrastructure capacity (e.g., new roadways, pipelines, etc.) on- or off-campus that could accommodate or induce additional development. Also, the project is consistent and in conformance with the growth-related policies, goals, or objectives of local and regional plans. Consequently, the proposed project is not expected to result in significant growth-inducing impacts to the environment.

³ According to Southern California Association of Governments forecasts, the population in the Van Nuys-North Sherman Oaks Community Plan Area is projected to grow from 150,133 in 2000 to 165,973 in the year 2010 or 11 percent between the years 2000 and 2010.

CHAPTER 5 - IMPACT OVERVIEW 5-1

5-1 Introduction 5-1

5-2 Unavoidable Significant Adverse Impacts 5-1

5-3 Impacts Found Not to be Significant 5-1

5-4 Cumulative Impacts 5-1

5-4.1 Visual Resources 5-6

5-4.2 Air Quality 5-6

5-4.3 Historical Resources 5-7

5-4.4 Archaeological Resources 5-8

5-4.5 Paleontological Resources 5-9

5-4.6 Geology/Soils/Seismicity 5-10

5-4.7 Hazardous Materials 5-10

5-4.8 Hydrology and Water Quality 5-11

5-4.9 Land Use and Planning 5-12

5-4.10 Noise 5-13

5-4.11 Population and Housing 5-14

5-4.12 Public Services 5-14

5-4.13 Transportation/Traffic and Parking 5-16

5-4.14 Public Utilities 5-17

5-5 Irreversible Environmental Changes 5-19

5-6 Growth-Inducing Impacts 5-19

FIGURE 5-1: LOCATIONS OF RELATED PROJECTS..... 5-5

TABLE 5-1: LIST OF RELATED PROJECTS 5-3