SECTION 4.0

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

CHAPTER 4.0

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Pursuant to CEQA *Guidelines* Sections 15126 and 15130, this chapter addresses growth-inducing impacts, cumulative impacts, and unavoidable significant impacts of the Proposed Project.

4.1 GROWTH INDUCING AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

CEQA *Guidelines* Section 15126.2(d) requires that an EIR evaluate the growth-inducing impacts of proposed projects. A growth-inducing impact is defined by CEQA Guidelines as an impact that fosters economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly. Direct growth-inducement would result, for example, if a project involved the construction of new housing. Indirect growth-inducement would result if a project established substantial new permanent employment opportunities (e.g., new commercial, industrial, or governmental enterprises) or if it would remove obstacles to population growth (e.g., expansion of a wastewater treatment plant that could support more development in the service area) that would lead to the construction of new housing.

Growth-inducement may constitute an adverse impact if the growth is not consistent with or accommodated by the land use and growth management plans for the affected area. Local land use plans provide development patterns and growth policies designed to guide orderly development that is supported by adequate urban public services, such as water supply, roadway infrastructure, sewer services, and solid waste services. A project that might induce "disorderly" growth (i.e., conflict with the local land use plans) has the potential to trigger further adverse environmental impacts and other public services impacts. For example, redesignation of property planned for agricultural uses to urban uses could result in a demand for new service facilities that would require conversion of additional agricultural land. A more salient example would be a project that increases the treatment or discharge capacity of a wastewater treatment plant, thereby allowing additional hookups that might encourage the construction of housing units that are not forecast in land use and/or growth management plans.

CEQA *Guidelines* Section 15358(2) defines indirect effects as those "which are caused by the project and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect or secondary effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changed in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on air, water and other natural systems, including ecosystems."

The Proposed Project would result in the construction of an equalization basin on the existing WWTP property. The basin is designed specifically to provide a temporary storage area for treated or untreated wastewater at the WWTP during large storm events, periods of high influent flow, or during upset conditions of the treatment process at the plant. Construction of the equalization basin is necessary to accommodate existing conditions and would not increase the treatment or discharge capacity of the existing facility. As described in **Chapter 2.0**, the proposed equalization basin would help the District address wet season storage deficiencies at the plant. The Proposed Project would not increase the treatment or discharge capacity of the facility or otherwise support an expansion of the facility that could allow for an increase in treatment or discharge. The Proposed Project would simply provide a capacity buffer designed to help the existing facility avoid future violations of its discharge permit. The Proposed Project is not expected to cause any direct or indirect growth-induced effects.

4.2 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts refer to the effects of two or more projects that, when combined, are considerable or compound other environmental effects. CEQA *Guidelines* Section 15130(b) requires that discussions of cumulative impacts reflect the severity of the impacts and their likelihood of occurrence; however, the cumulative impacts discussion does not need to provide as much detail as is provided in the analysis of project-only impacts and should be guided by the standards of practicality and reasonableness. CEQA *Guidelines* Section 15130(b) identifies three elements necessary for an adequate cumulative analysis:

- A list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, including, if necessary, those projects outside the control of the agency (referred to as the list approach), or a summary of projections contained in an adopted general plan or related planning document which has been adopted or certified, which described or evaluated regional or area-wide conditions contributing to the cumulative impact. Any such planning document shall be referenced and made available to the public at a location specified by the Lead Agency (referred to as the plan approach).
- A summary of expected environmental effects to be produced by those projects with specific reference to additional information stating where that information is available.
- A reasonable analysis of the cumulative impacts of the relevant projects. An EIR shall examine reasonable feasible options for mitigating or avoiding the project's contribution to any significant cumulative effects of a Proposed Project.

4.2.1 CUMULATIVE SETTING

Analysis of cumulative impacts is based on consideration of reasonably foreseeable projects that could potentially compound the impacts of the Proposed Project. **Table 4.2-1** provides a list of all reasonably foreseeable projects that meet the conditions of relevancy discussed below.

TABLE 4.2-1
POTENTIAL PROJECTS WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

Project	Project Status	Anticipated Construction	General Area of Impacts
Russian River County Sanitation District Projects			
Disinfection Project (UV)	Application	2007-2008	WWTP property
Emergency Generator Installation	Application	2008-2009	WWTP property
District Irrigation Reliability and Beneficial Reuse Project	Application	2008-2009	WWTP property, Green Valley or Russian River Valley areas
Other Sanitation District Projects			
Camp Meeker/Occidental Wastewater Reclamation Project	N/A	N/A	Camp Meeker/Occidental WWTP property
Sonoma County PRMD Department			
Major Subdivision – 6740 Hwy 116	Application	N/A	River Road/Highway 116
Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works			
Asphalt Concrete Overlay on Various County Roads	Complete	River Road, Stony Point Road	Asphalt Concrete Overlay on Various County Roads
River Road Viaduct at Eagles Nest Lane	Under Construction	River Road at Eagles Nest Lane	River Road Viaduct at Eagles Nest Lane
Major Slide Repair on River Road	2007-2008	River Road near River Bend campground	Major Slide Repair on River Road
Left Turn Channelization on River Road in Rio Nido	Planning Stage	River Road in Rio Nido	Left Turn Channelization on River Road in Rio Nido
Russian River Redevelopment Oversight Committee/Community Development Commission Projects			
Guerneville River Park Restroom construction	Approved	N/A	Guerneville River Park off Highway 116

Source: Maertz, 2006; Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works, 2006; Sacksteder, 2007.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The potential for the Proposed Project to contribute to significant cumulative impacts is limited to the area in which project related impacts are expected to occur. Areas of impact tend to vary depending on the issue area. For example, noise related impacts are usually limited to the immediate vicinity of the project site, while air quality impacts might contribute to the overall air quality present in the air basin. For the purposes of this DEIR, the cumulative setting is generally defined as the boundaries of the District's service area and nearby affected areas in Sonoma County; however, the relevant geographic scope of analysis may vary depending on the nature of the impacts in question.

TIMING

Cumulative impacts also depend on the anticipated schedule for construction and operation of approved and proposed projects in the area. Timing is perhaps most important with regards to consideration of potential cumulative impacts associated with construction activities. Construction of the Proposed Project is scheduled to begin in 2008 and last approximately nine months. As shown in **Table 4.2-1**, there is minimal overlap of the tentative construction schedules of projects identified for consideration.

TYPES OF PROJECTS

As described in **Chapter 3.0**, the majority of project related impacts would take place during the construction phase. Accordingly, much of the cumulative analysis focuses on construction projects within the geographical and chronological parameters discussed above. A description of construction projects in the area that could contribute to cumulative construction related impacts of the proposed project is provided in **Table 4.2-1**. Long-term cumulative impacts are analyzed as well. This analysis is focused to consider the Proposed Project in conjunction with other projects that would have associated operational impacts, including other wastewater and water resource projects within the Russian River Service area boundary and nearby Sonoma County areas. A brief description of larger projects considered within the analysis of long term operational impacts is included below.

District Irrigation Reliability and Beneficial Reuse Project

The District's Irrigation Reliability and Beneficial Reuse Project (IRBR Project) would expand the area used for disposal of treated wastewater by the WWTP. This expansion would increase the overall disposal capacity of the plant during the dry season when discharge to the Russian River is not permitted. The IRBR is intended to provide the District with the flexibility to reliably accommodate periods of exceptional rainfall during the reclamation season when existing spray fields become saturated and discharge is severely limited. The District is currently utilizing the maximum amount of irrigation disposal capacity available through the District's existing agreements. The project would involve the installation of pipelines, laid primarily within existing public road right-of-ways, that would transport treated wastewater from the WWTP to be used for irrigation of agricultural and rural lands to offset groundwater pumping in the Russian River Valley and Green Valley areas.

The District is currently considering two proposed main pipeline alignments to provide increased operational flexibility and reliability to the current recycled water distribution system. Alignment 1 would install approximately 12.2 miles of 8 to 14-inch pipeline and appurtenant features in the Green Valley area. Alternative 2 would install approximately 18.5 miles of 8 to 14-inch pipeline and appurtenant features in the Russian River Valley area. Existing pumps at the WWTP would be upgraded as necessary to maintain sufficient water pressure to transport recycled water through the distribution system. Storage tanks would be utilized along high points in the pipeline to maintain pressure in the system. Build out of the pipelines will be responsive to growth and demand within the District's service

area. It is possible that full build out of both pipelines may be required to meet the currently permitted recycling volume. The direct impacts of this project are currently being assessed under a separate EIR.

Camp Meeker/Occidental Wastewater Reclamation Project

The Camp Meeker/Occidental Wastewater Reclamation Project (WR Project) would convey wastewater from Camp Meeker and Occidental to the District WWTP. Implementation of the WR project would improve sewer service within the existing Occidental County Sanitation District (OCSD) boundaries, and would extend wastewater treatment service to the Camp Meeker Recreation and Park District (CMRPD). The project would address violations of the existing OCSD waste discharge permit. Additionally, the project would address existing health hazard issues and adverse effects associated with CMPRD's failing septic systems as identified by the County Health Department and NCRWQCB. These health hazard issues were identified after completion of a pollution study in 1989 which found surface discharge of sewage or greywater on 37 percent of parcels surveyed. The County subsequently issued a declaration of health hazard, which was also adopted by the NCRWQCB. The declaration designated the community of Camp Meeker a Prohibition of Waiver Zone, effectively creating a building moratorium on all activities that required a building permit from the County.

Implementation of the WR Project would provide wastewater treatment capacity to serve the existing 349 residential units located in CMRPD plus as "excess factor" of 10 percent, and the 119 parcels currently within the OCSD service boundary. The environmental impacts of this project are currently being assessed under a separate EIR being prepared as a supplement to the Camp Meeker Wastewater Reclamation Project FEIR, which was certified in 2002.

As currently proposed, OCSD would continue to use its existing collection system, which is currently undergoing renovations. The existing OCSD lift station would be converted to a transfer station to direct sewage into the transmission main to Camp Meeker. Combined sewage from CMRPD and OCSD would be transferred through a transmission line to the District WWTP. The transmission main would be constructed along Bohemian Highway, cross the Russian River via the Monte Rio Bridge, follow SR-116 past Northwood Golf Club, pass under the Russian River through an existing pipe casing, and terminate at the District WWTP. CMRPD and OCSD wastewater would be commingled with wastewater collected through the District collection system for treatment, storage, reuse, and discharge. Connection to Camp Meeker and Occidental would increase the average daily wastewater flow (ADWF) by approximately 0.07 MGD (CMRPD, 2006).

District UV Disinfection Upgrade Project

The project consists of the installation of an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system with a capacity to disinfect peak wet weather flows of up to 3.7 million gallons per day (mgd) of treated wastewater (which includes 3.5 mgd of influent wastewater plus 0.2 mgd of backwash from the existing tertiary filters). The project will replace the existing chlorine disinfection system at the treatment plant, as required by

Regional Board Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R1-2003-0026, which serves as the District's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (No. CA0024058). The UV disinfection system will consist of up to two parallel concrete channels containing UV light banks, and covered overhead by a canopy. The UV system will be designed so that effluent disinfection complies with California Code of Regulations, Title 22 requirements for reuse and NPDES permit requirements for river discharge. To improve wastewater penetration by UV light, coagulation and flocculation facilities may be constructed to further remove solids prior to UV disinfection.

The UV disinfection system will be installed on approximately 7,000 square feet of previously developed land within the treatment plant boundaries. One or two trenches approximately 20 feet wide, 75 feet long, and 10 feet deep will be constructed to house the UV light banks. Coagulation and flocculation facilities would consist of up to a 13,000 gallon flocculation tank, metering pumps, and double-contained storage tanks. Additional trenches approximately 4 feet wide and 8 feet deep will be constructed to house appurtenant structures such as piping and conduit for connection to the treatment and storage system and energy supply.

4.2.2 DESCRIPTION OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

SHORT-TERM CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Impact

4.2-1 Short term cumulative impacts associated with construction activities could occur as a result of simultaneous construction projects. These include short-term impacts associated with soils and geology, water quality and drainage, biological resources, noise, traffic, and air quality. However, construction related cumulative impacts would be temporary and can be mitigated to less than significant levels through implementation of mitigation measures recommended in Section 3.0. Less than Significant with Mitigation.

Construction of the Proposed Project is anticipated to occur between the years 2008 and 2009. For the purposes of this analysis, the projects identified in **Table 4.2-1** are assumed to be constructed simultaneously. The combined effect of concurrent construction activities could compound project related impacts. The following discussion analyzes potential cumulative impacts that could result from concurrent construction activities, including the Proposed Project's incremental contribution to these impacts.

Geological Resources

Concurrent construction of the Proposed Project and other relevant projects identified in **Table 4.2-1** would require ground-disturbing activities that could increase erosion. The greatest chance of impacts from erosion occurs during grading activities, when the removal of ground cover increases the potential for soil erosion. Cumulative soil erosion by multiple projects may cause a significant impact to the Russian River, which is near each of the identified construction sites, due to siltation or degradation of water quality. It could also contribute to road damage, clog

drainage ditches and stream channels, cover fish spawning grounds, and increase silt in reservoirs.

Pursuant to NCRWQCB requirements, a general NPDES permit for construction activities must be obtained for any construction projects over one acre in size. The preparation and implementation of detailed erosion and sedimentation control plans or similar mitigation are a required condition of an NPDES permit. With the implementation of this mitigation measure, significant cumulative impacts to soils and geological resources resulting from erosion would not occur. The Proposed Project's contribution to significant cumulative impacts to soils and geological resources resulting from erosion would be rendered less than cumulatively considerable through compliance with the terms of the NPDES permit, and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) identified within the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) as required by **Mitigation Measure 3.3-1**.

Water Resources

Concurrent construction of the Proposed Project and other relevant projects identified in **Table 4.2-1** could result in cumulatively considerable impacts to hydrology and water quality. Construction activities could result in erosion and sediment discharge to surface waters, potentially impacting water quality in downstream water bodies as well as storm drain capacity. In addition, construction equipment and materials have the potential to leak, thereby discharging oils and greases and construction supplies into stormwater. Development projects over one acre in size in Sonoma County require NPDES permits from the NCRWQCB that include strict guidelines to protect water quality, including SWPPPs. As discussed in **Section 3.3**, the District would be required to develop and implement a SWPPP for the Proposed Project as part of the NPDES General Construction Permit. As required by **Mitigation Measure 3.3-1**, the SWPPP would include BMPs to reduce impacts to water quality from construction related contaminant releases, and erosion from ground disturbing activities, to less than significant levels. As such, the project's incremental contribution to water quality impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

Biological Resources

Concurrent construction of the Proposed Project and other relevant projects identified in **Table 4.2-1** could lead to temporary cumulative impacts to biological resources. Construction activities, such as earthmoving, grading, trenching, and vegetation removal, could disturb nesting habitat and the reproductive potential of special-status bird and bat species due to ground-disturbing activities. Construction activities also could result in temporary cumulative impacts to the western pond turtle, nesting birds, wetlands and Waters of the U.S. Impacts related to construction activities from the Proposed Project would be mitigated to a less than significant level through implementation of mitigation measures recommended in **Section 3.5**, **Biological**

Resources. These measures include biological monitoring and restriction of vegetation removal and other types of construction activities during the nesting season. Additionally, the District would be required to comply with terms of applicable permits to avoid impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and Waters of the U.S. As such, the Proposed Project's contribution to construction related impacts to biological resources would not be cumulatively considerable.

Noise

Concurrent development of the Proposed Project and other relevant projects identified in **Table 4.2-1** would generate noise associated with construction activities and construction traffic. In particular, the concurrent construction of the Proposed Project along with the UV Disinfection Project, IRBR Project and WR Project could compound noise levels that would adversely impact sensitive receptors adjacent to the WWTP site. Temporary construction noise levels therefore have the potential to be cumulatively significant. However, implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.6-1** would reduce construction related noise from the Proposed Project to a less than significant level. This measure requires construction contractors to utilize best available noise control techniques, and to locate fixed construction equipment and staging areas as far from residential housing as feasible. Assumed compliance with County noise ordinances by other projects, including implementation of similar mitigation measures would reduce cumulative construction-related noise impacts. As such, the Proposed Project's incremental contribution to temporary noise impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

Traffic

Concurrent development of the Proposed Project and other relevant projects identified in **Table 4.2-1** would temporarily increase traffic on local roadways, thereby increasing potential safety hazards and design stress. Construction-related traffic impacts from the Proposed Project would occur primarily along Neeley Road, the primary access road to the WWTP. The UV Disinfection Project, IRBR Project and WR Project would have similar impacts on Neeley Road during their construction phases. Concurrent development could cause cumulatively significant impacts along Neeley Road. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.7-1**, however, would reduce potential impacts associated with construction related traffic from the Proposed Project by requiring coordination with public transportation and emergency service providers, and ensuring construction traffic would comply with California Vehicle Code Sections relating to vehicle width and height. Additionally, construction traffic would be limited to non-peak hour traffic times to the extent feasible. Similar mitigation measures would also be required for the UV Disinfection Project, IRBU Project and WR Project. As such, the project's contribution to cumulative traffic related impacts from construction activities would not be considerable.

Air Quality

Concurrent development of the Proposed Project and other relevant projects identified in **Table 4.2-1** would generate short-term emissions of criteria pollutants, including fugitive dust and diesel exhaust emissions from construction/excavation activities and vehicle/equipment operation. Additionally, greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrogen dioxide, would be temporarily generated through construction activities. Cumulative emissions of criteria pollutants and greenhouse gasses could adversely impact air quality and potentially contribute to global warming effects. **Mitigation Measure 4.8-1** has been recommended for the Proposed Project to reduce potential air quality impacts associated with criteria air pollutant emissions to less than significant levels. This mitigation measure would also be effective at reducing potential greenhouse gas emissions. Construction of projects over 4 acres would require implementation of enhanced air quality control measures for construction activities, in accordance with BAAQMD BMP's for PM_{10} reduction as recommended by NSCAPCD. As such, the project's contribution to cumulative construction-related air quality impacts would not be considerable.

Mitigation Measures

4.2-1 Implement the following mitigation measures identified in Chapter 4.0 of this EIR:

- Water Resources, **Mitigation Measure 3.3-1**
- Biological Resources, **Mitigation Measures 3.5-2**, **3.5-4**, **3.5-5**, and **3.5-6**
- Noise, **Mitigation Measure 3.6-1**
- Traffic, **Mitigation Measures 3.7-1**
- Air Quality, **Mitigation Measures 3.8-1**

Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant.

LONG TERM CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Geology and Soils

Impact

4.2-2 The Proposed Project, along with implementation of additional wastewater and water resource projects, could lead to long term impacts associated with upset conditions from structural damage or collapse of facilities resulting from ground shaking or surface fault rupture during major earthquakes on nearby active faults. Less than Significant with Mitigation.

Failure of slopes and settlement could occur beneath proposed facilities at the WWTP site and other project areas, resulting in structural or mechanical damage and secondary effects related to water release. The Proposed Project would result in the development of an earthen equalization basin that could potentially be impacted during a seismic event. Implementation of the UV

Disinfection Project, IRBR Project and WR Project would also result in the development of facilities that could result in upset conditions during a seismic event. Failure of these facilities could result in a significant release of untreated and treated wastewater into the Russian River watershed.

The Proposed Project would be required to comply with design measures established by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) for treatment and conveyance infrastructure design and construction. Moreover, as described in **Section 2.7.1**, the Proposed Project includes the installation of an impact intermediate foundation system to improve the structural performance of the equalization basin during seismic events. Additionally, as described in **Section 2.7.4,** the District would prepare an emergency response plan for failure of the proposed facilities at the WWTP during a seismic event. Compliance with standard design practices established by the AWWA and implementation of recommended mitigation measures would reduce impacts associated with upset conditions resulting from ground-shaking or seismic events to a less than cumulatively considerable level. Therefore, the project's contribution to this impact would not be cumulatively considerable.

Mitigation Measure

None required.

Water Quality

Impact

4.2-3 Implementation of the Proposed Project along with implementation of additional proposed wastewater and water resource projects in the area could lead to cumulative impacts to water quality. Beneficial Impact.

Operation of the Proposed Project would not increase the treatment or discharge capacity of the existing WWTP. The Proposed Project therefore would not contribute to any potential adverse impacts to water quality from increased treatment or discharge volumes associated with additional wastewater projects, including the IRBR Project and the WR Project. Overall, implementation of these projects in combination with the Proposed Project would reduce the risk of unpermitted discharges to the Russian River, thereby resulting in a cumulatively beneficial impact to water quality.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Cultural Resources

Impact

4.2-4 Implementation of the Proposed Project along with additional projects in the area could lead to cumulative long-term impacts to cultural resources. Less than Significant.

The Proposed Project along with cumulative developments in the area has the potential to impact cultural resources. As discussed in **Section 3.4**, no significant cultural resources or archeological sites are known to exist on the project site; however, adverse impacts to cultural resources could occur through the unanticipated disturbance of artifacts or other resource materials during construction. Cultural resources are afforded substantial legal protection and impacts are generally required to be mitigated through avoidance or data recovery programs. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.4-1** would reduce impacts to cultural resources resulting from construction of the Proposed Project to a less than significant level. Other projects in the area, including the UV Disinfection Project, IRBR and WR Project, would be subject to similar restrictions and required to have similar mitigation. Therefore, the Proposed Project's contribution to impacts associated with cultural resources would not be cumulatively considerable.

Mitigation Measure

4.2-4 Implement **Mitigation Measure 3.4-1**.

Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant.

Biological Resources

Impact

4.2-5 The Proposed Project in conjunction with additional projects in the area could lead to cumulative long-term impacts to biological resources, from the loss of wildlife and plant habitat, the loss of special-status species, and impacts to wetlands and waters of the U.S. Less than Significant with Mitigation.

Potential loss of special-status species and impacts to wetlands and waters of the U.S. are regulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Projects (including the Proposed Project) that could impact special-status species would require consultation with the USFWS and/or the CDFG, and would require permits, if impacts were to occur. Projects that could impact wetlands and/or waters of the U.S. would require a Section 404 permit from the USACE and a Section 401 permit from the RWQCB. Additionally, projects impacting streams would require a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFG. Because mitigation would be

required and implemented as part of these permits, significant cumulative impacts to biological resources would not occur.

Mitigation Measure

4.2-5 Implement **Mitigation Measures 3.5-2, 3.5-4, 3.5-5**, and **3.5-6.**

Significance After Mitigation

Less than significant.

Noise

Impact

4.2-6 The Proposed Project and additional projects at the District's WWTP would result in the installation of noise generating equipment that could result in cumulative impacts to nearby sensitive receptors as a result of increased ambient noise levels. Less than Significant.

Noise generated by additional pumps or other features from the Proposed Project and other projects in the area could potentially result in cumulatively significant impacts to sensitive receptors located near the WWTP. Noise generating equipment resulting from the Proposed Project includes a lift station with a pump located below grade inside a covered wet well. Additionally, the IRBR would likely increase the capacity of existing booster pumps at the WWTP. The combined increase in noise levels resulting from additional pumps and increased booster pump capacity at the WWTP could result in significant increases to ambient noise levels and adverse impacts to nearby sensitive receptors. However, new booster pumps at the WWTP would be more efficient, and would therefore generate less noise than existing booster pumps on the site. As discussed in **Section 3.6**, Policy NE-1c of the *Sonoma County General Plan* requires that the total nighttime ambient noise level resulting from new continuous noise sources shall not exceed 45 dBA as measured at the exterior property line of any affected residential land use. The existing nighttime ambient noise level at the nearest sensitive receptor is 44 dBA. Spherical modeling indicated that noise generated from the Proposed Project would not cause an increase to the existing nighttime ambient noise level at the nearest residential housing to the project site. Additional projects at the WWTP site would be required to reduce operational noise to less than significant levels through implementation design measures, such as housing pumps within noise attenuating structures or installing pumps below grade. As such, the Proposed Project's contribution to impacts associated with increased noise levels would not be cumulatively considerable.

Mitigation Measure

None required.

Odor

Impact

4.2-7 Operation of the Proposed Project and additional projects at the District's WWTP could generate odors that would result in long-term adverse impacts to sensitive receptors. Less than Significant.

The proposed equalization basin would provide temporary storage of either treated or untreated wastewater. Temporary storage of untreated wastewater in the equalization basin would generate the greatest potential for odor related impacts resulting from the Proposed Project. The WR Project would increase the intake of wastewater at the WWTP and may cause increased usage of the proposed equalization basin. However, as discussed in **Section 3.8**, the use of the basin for storage of untreated wastewater would typically occur during storm events, when odors would be diluted by precipitation, temperature, and other climatological factors; therefore odor related impacts from use of the equalization basin are expected to be less than significant. Furthermore, the IRBR Project would provide flexibility for dry season discharges from the WWTP that would minimize or reduce the need to use the proposed equalization basin for storage of untreated wastewater during the dry summer months (when odor impacts would be most likely to occur). Therefore, under cumulative conditions, odor related impacts would potentially be further reduced. The Proposed Project's contribution to long-term impacts associated with odor would be less than cumulatively considerable.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Air Quality

Impact

4.2-8 Operation of the Proposed Project and additional projects at the District's WWTP could result in cumulative increases in emissions that could affect air quality. Less than Significant.

Operational emissions resulting from development of the Proposed Project along with additional cumulative development described in **Table 4.2-1** could result in adverse cumulative impacts to air quality. The Proposed Project and the IRBR Project would result in the development of additional pumps at the WWTP. However, the proposed pumps are electric and would therefore generate zero direct emissions. Additionally, operation and maintenance of the equalization basin would not result in vehicle trips above existing levels. Because no operational emissions of criteria pollutants would result, the Proposed Project's contribution to impacts to air quality is not cumulatively considerable.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Growth Inducing

Impact

4.2-9 The Proposed Project in conjunction with additional wastewater projects in the area could induce growth within the District's boundaries. Less than Significant.

The Proposed Project and additional wastewater infrastructure projects, including the IRBR and WR Projects, might facilitate growth within the District boundaries if the projects increase treatment or discharge capacities at the WWTP. As discussed in **Section 4.1** above, however, the Proposed Project would not increase the treatment or discharge capacity of the facility, as the basin would strictly be utilized as a temporary storage unit under extenuating circumstances such as large storm events, periods of high influent flow, or during upset conditions of the treatment process at the plant. Furthermore, as described in **Section 3.0**, the equalization basin is needed to address existing storage deficiencies at the plant as recommend in the long term solutions report prepared by the District in response to Cease and Desist Order 98-57 issued by the NCRWQCB. As such, the purpose and need of the Proposed Project is to attend to existing infrastructure needs at the WWTP, not to facilitate future growth. As implementation of the Proposed Project would not facilitate additional hookups, expand the service area, or otherwise induce growth, the project's contribution to impacts associated with growth inducement would not be cumulatively considerable. Similarly, neither the IRBR Project nor the WR Project would increase the treatment capacity of the facility. Under the WR Project, the transmission main providing the connection would not be sized to facilitate additional hook-ups. Therefore, implementation of the WR Project would result in use of unutilized treatment capacity of the WWTP to service existing demands within the OCSD and CMRPD boundaries. This would result in a net loss of available treatment capacity at the WWTP that could otherwise accommodate new development within the District's service area. Thus, development of these projects is not anticipated to have a cumulative growth-inducing impact.

Mitigation Measure

4.2-9 None required.

4.3 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

No significant unavoidable adverse impacts related to the Proposed Project are anticipated. See the Initial Study located in **Appendix A** and **Chapter 3.0** for detailed discussions of potentially significant impacts.