

CHAPTER 6 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

<i>Issue</i>	Less Than Significant or No Impact	Potential Significant Impact Adequately Addressed in MEIR	MEIR Required Additional Review: No Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact Due to Mitigation Measures in Project Description	New Additional Significant Impact Not Addressed in MEIR	New Additional Mitigation Measures Required
Mandatory Findings of Significance						
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (Cumulatively considerable means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST EXPLANATIONS

- a) *Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?*

The project does have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species. As discussed in the Section 5.4, Biological Resources, habitat for Swainson’s hawk and other species of concern would be affected by new

development. However, mitigation measures have been recommended in the original 1994 MEIR and are being implemented through the SJMSCP to reduce this impact to less than significant. This impact is also adequately mitigated by implementation measures included in Specific Plan II of which Neighborhoods I and J are a part.

- b) *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (Cumulatively considerable means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)*

The cumulative impacts of the project have been addressed in the 1994 MEIR. The MEIR addressed full buildout of Mountain House. Cumulative development in the general area and the overall region was also addressed in the MEIR. While some of the cumulative projects listed in the MEIR have been built or removed from application, other projects have been proposed. To address the most recent conditions related to cumulative traffic, this Initial Study included runs of the new Countywide transportation model, adapted by the MHCSD, that addresses growth to the year 2025 (the MEIR traffic model addressed growth to the year 2010). More detailed information about this model can be found in the Section 5.15, Transportation/Traffic, of the Initial Study. Other topics related to cumulative growth are adequately covered in the MEIR.

Based on the results of the new cumulative analysis related to traffic, no new impacts have been identified. The MEIR did identify significant unavoidable impacts along freeway segments. The required findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations were made for the MEIR and the adoption of the Master Plan related to this issue and other impacts that were found to be significant and unavoidable.

- c) *Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

The project would not create substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly for the reasons discussed in more detail in Chapter 5 of this Initial Study.