

## 6. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

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A Draft EIR (DEIR) must discuss cumulative impacts when they are significant. Cumulative impacts are defined as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts."<sup>1</sup> Therefore, a cumulative impacts analysis is an analysis of a particular project viewed over time and in conjunction with other related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects whose impacts might compound or interrelate with those of the proposed project.<sup>2</sup>

The cumulative analysis in the DEIR is based on the "summary of projections" approach using the Fremont General Plan. The summary of projections is discussed in Section 3.1. The cumulative impacts of each environmental area are discussed in Sections 3.2 through 3.15. The following significant cumulative impacts are summarized below and have been identified in this Draft EIR.

- **Soils, Geology and Seismicity.** Increased exposure of people and structures to the seismic hazards associated with the Hayward Fault Zone.
- **Hazardous Materials.** No significant adverse cumulative impacts. The cumulative impacts of increased storage and handling of hazardous materials within the vicinity of the project would be mitigated by compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations pertaining to the storage and handling of hazardous materials and investigation and remediation of identified releases.
- **Hydrology.** Increased stormwater discharges and urban runoff could contribute to existing flood problems and increased surface water pollution.
- **Ecosystems.** Riparian forest, oak woodlands, grasslands and seasonal wetlands habitats would continue to be fragmented and lost.
- **Land Use.** Irrevocable commitment of land to increased development.

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<sup>1</sup> *State CEQA Guidelines*, California Administrative Code, Section 15355.

<sup>2</sup> Michael H. Remy, et al., *Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act*, 1991 (5th Edition), Solano Press Book: Point Arena, pg. 218.

## 6. Cumulative Impacts

- **Central Park.** No significant adverse cumulative impacts. The Warm Springs Extension Project is the only planned or foreseeable project with the potential to be inconsistent with the City of Fremont's plans for future development of Central Park. Therefore, no cumulative impacts on Central Park uses as a result of potential aggregate effects of this and other projects are expected.
- **Visual Quality.** Additional development will create an environment that is more built up which would allow the BART aerial structures less likely to contrast with or dominate their surroundings. Development and the maturation of plantings around Central Park will contribute to a visually complex environment capable of visually absorbing the BART structures.
- **Cultural Resources.** Increase in residential and commercial development may follow the Proposed Project bringing threats to archaeological sites.
- **Utilities.** No significant adverse cumulative impacts. Although there would be increasing demands of utility services, the utility providers, with planned improvement and conservation, expect to meet demands.
- **Safety and Security.** No significant adverse cumulative impacts. BART's *System Safety Plan* and *Emergency Plan* would be applicable to the Warm Springs Extension and other proposed extensions in the same manner that they apply to existing BART operations. There are no anticipated projects by other agencies which would create additional safety risks or emergency preparedness requirements beyond those addressed in the plans.
- **Transportation.** Traffic from the project and the increase in foreseeable future development would result in cumulative traffic impacts in the vicinity of the proposed stations.
- **Noise and Vibration.** Increase in noise associated with greater motor vehicle traffic in conjunction with operational transit noise.
- **Air Quality.** No significant adverse cumulative impacts. Predicted carbon monoxide concentrations due to cumulative traffic are expected to be below the state and federal ambient standards. Current projections are that emissions of regional pollutants will

## 6. Cumulative Impacts

decrease in the future due to regional programs for reducing emissions that are in place or currently being considered.

- **Energy.** Potential cumulative impacts could occur if the project, in combination with other future development were to result in the requirements for additional power generating capacity. Increasing demands for Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) services will require the utility to increase its dependable capacity. PG&E expects to meet the demands primarily through conservation and energy efficiency programs. Future demands, including the project, have been anticipated and are included in planning for commensurate increases in supply. There are no expected adverse cumulative effects on energy supplies.

Mitigation measures have been incorporated into all sections of Chapter 3 of this Draft EIR for the above significant impacts.