

CITY OF WALNUT CREEK

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

ADDENDUM TO THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

SCH No. 2004022042



Prepared for:

CITY OF WALNUT CREEK
1666 NORTH MAIN STREET
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596

Prepared by:



2729 PROSPECT PARK DRIVE, SUITE 220
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670

APRIL 2012

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Purpose of the EIR Addendum 1.0-1
1.2 Basis for Decision to Prepare Addendum 1.0-1
1.3 Organization and Scope..... 1.0-3

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Local and Regional Setting 2.0-1
2.2 Overview of the Walnut Creek General Plan and Its Associated EIR..... 2.0-1
2.3 Overview of the Walnut Creek Climate Action Plan 2.0-7
2.4 Purpose of Addendum 2.0-16

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

3.1 Land Use 3.0-2
3.2 Population, Employment, and Housing 3.0-3
3.3 Community Services..... 3.0-4
3.4 Transportation..... 3.0-5
3.5 Infrastructure 3.0-8
3.6 Visual Quality 3.0-11
3.7 Cultural Resources 3.0-13
3.8 Geology and Seismic Hazards 3.0-14
3.9 Hazardous Materials..... 3.0-15
3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality 3.0-17
3.11 Biological Resources 3.0-18
3.12 Air Quality 3.0-20
3.13 Noise..... 3.0-22

REFERENCES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Addendum has been prepared in conformance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Public Resources Code, Division 13, Environmental Quality and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (State CEQA Guidelines). Furthermore, this environmental document serves as an addendum to the previously certified Walnut Creek General Plan Environmental Impact Report (GPEIR) – State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042 (City of Walnut Creek 2006), which consists of the Draft EIR and Final EIR. The City of Walnut Creek (City; Walnut Creek) is the lead agency for the environmental review of the proposed Walnut Creek Climate Action Plan (project).

1.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE EIR ADDENDUM

The Walnut Creek General Plan was adopted and its associated EIR (SCH #2004022042) was certified in April 2006 by the Walnut Creek City Council. The General Plan includes multiple policies and associated actions that address sustainability and conservation, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change. The proposed Walnut Creek Climate Action Plan (CAP) identifies how the City will achieve (or exceed) its greenhouse gas emissions reduction target. The CAP provides goals and associated measures, also referred to as climate change mitigation measures, in the sectors of energy use, transportation, land use, and solid waste. In addition, the CAP provides goals and measures for longer-term climate change adaptation and plan implementation, acknowledging that adaptation to climate change is necessary because reductions in greenhouse gases will not immediately reverse the impacts of climate change.

The CAP has been structured to serve as a programmatic tiering document for future development projects pursuant to the requirements of CEQA. Through its goals and measures, the CAP provides the means of implementing policies for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and minimizing the impacts of climate change. By incorporating the goals and measures of the CAP into the General Plan EIR through this GPEIR Addendum, Walnut Creek is ensuring that future development and planning activities within the city conform to the objectives of the CAP and climate change legislation passed by the State of California. Please refer to Section 2.0, Project Description, for a detailed description of the proposed CAP and Section 3.0, Environmental Analysis, for a list of policies and actions that relate to the CAP.

1.2 BASIS FOR DECISION TO PREPARE ADDENDUM

In determining whether an addendum is the appropriate document to analyze the modifications to the project and its approval, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 (Addendum to an EIR or Negative Declaration) states:

- (a) The lead agency or a responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.*
- (b) An addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- (c) *An addendum need not be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the final EIR or adopted negative declaration.*
- (d) *The decision-making body shall consider the addendum with the final EIR or adopted negative declaration prior to making a decision on the project.*
- (e) *A brief explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 should be included in an addendum to an EIR, the lead agency's required findings on the project, or elsewhere in the record. The explanation must be supported by substantial evidence.*

As the General Plan EIR has been certified, the environmental impacts of subsequent activities proposed under the General Plan, which in this case is the City's CAP, must be examined in light of the impact analysis in the certified EIR to determine whether additional CEQA documentation must be prepared. The standard that applies is whether, under Public Resources Code Section 21166 and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15163, there are new significant effects or other grounds that require preparation of a subsequent EIR or supplemental EIR in support of further agency action on the project. Under these guidelines, a subsequent or supplemental EIR shall be prepared if any of the following criteria are met:

- (a) *When an EIR has been certified or negative declaration adopted for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:*
 - (1) *Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;*
 - (2) *Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or*
 - (3) *New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the negative declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:*
 - (A) *The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;*
 - (B) *Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;*
 - (C) *Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or*

(D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

In addition, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(a) includes a provision for addressing greenhouse gases:

(a) Lead agencies may analyze and mitigate the significant effects of greenhouse gas emissions at a programmatic level, such as in a general plan, a long range development plan, or a separate plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Later project-specific environmental documents may tier from and/or incorporate by reference that existing programmatic review. Project-specific environmental documents may rely on an EIR containing a programmatic analysis of greenhouse gas emissions as provided in section 15152 (tiering), 15167 (staged EIRs) 15168 (program EIRs), 15175–15179.5 (Master EIRs), 15182 (EIRs Prepared for Specific Plans), and 15183 (EIRs Prepared for General Plans, Community Plans, or Zoning).

As demonstrated in the environmental analysis provided in Section 3.0, Environmental Analysis, of this Addendum to the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR, none of the conditions analyzed under the City's General Plan EIR have changed, nor does the proposed Climate Action Plan, as an implementing tool of the General Plan, meet any of the criteria for preparing a subsequent or supplemental EIR. (The CAP will not have one or more significant effects not discussed in the General Plan EIR, nor does the CAP create substantially more severe significant effects than previously examined in the General Plan EIR.) Therefore, the City of Walnut Creek, as the lead agency, is preparing an addendum versus a subsequent or supplemental EIR. The project may therefore be approved as an activity covered within the scope of the General Plan EIR. The CAP is analyzed consistent with the provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5.

1.3 ORGANIZATION AND SCOPE

SECTION 1.0 – INTRODUCTION

Section 1.0 provides an introduction and overview describing the intended use of the GPEIR Addendum.

SECTION 2.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section provides a detailed description of the proposed project.

SECTION 3.0 – ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This section contains an analysis of environmental topic areas that were addressed in the CAP.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section provides a detailed description of the proposed Walnut Creek Climate Action Plan (CAP). The reader is referred to Section 3.0, Environmental Analysis, for the analysis of environmental effects of this project in relation to the previous analysis provided in the Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042).

2.1 LOCAL AND REGIONAL SETTING

PROJECT LOCATION

The City of Walnut Creek and its General Plan Planning Area (Planning Area) are located in Contra Costa County 23 miles east of the city of San Francisco, at the foot of Mount Diablo. The General Plan defines three boundaries for Walnut Creek: the city limits (19.77 square miles and including all areas under Walnut Creek's jurisdiction and control), the Sphere of Influence (SOI) (4.3 square miles), and the Planning Area. Walnut Creek's Planning Area totals 28.47 square miles.

PROJECT SETTING

The City of Walnut Creek occupies a valley nestled between the Las Trampas and Diablo Foothill Ranges. Mountains and hills surround the city on three sides, including Mount Diablo and the surrounding hills of Acalanes Ridge to the west, Shell Ridge to the southeast, Lime Ridge to the east, and Las Trampas and Sugarloaf ridges to the south. Vegetation in Walnut Creek is dominated by a cover of suburban ornamental landscape, bordered by the remaining undeveloped grasslands and woodlands of the surrounding hillsides, and traversed by the bands of riparian forest and scrub along the numerous creeks and drainages. Remnant native valley oaks and coast live oaks occur in scattered locations throughout the developed valley floor.

Most of the valley floor and lower hillsides have been developed with urban and suburban uses. Land uses within the city include residential, retail and commercial, public, office, and open space. The City's General Plan 2025 Land Use Map shows the City's vision for the development, redevelopment, and preservation of public and private properties in the Walnut Creek Planning Area until the year 2025. The map designates the distribution and location of land to be used for future housing, business, open space, public facilities, and other uses proposed under the General Plan.

The roadway network that serves the City of Walnut Creek consists of two major routes of travel (State Route 24 and Interstate 680) and smaller arterials, collector streets, and local streets that connect neighborhoods and other land uses to the arterial street system. Routes of Regional Significance are major roadway and freeway corridors that serve regional traffic. Corridors in Walnut Creek designated as Routes of Regional Significance are Ygnacio Valley Road, Treat Boulevard, Geary Road, North Main Street (from Interstate 680 to the north city limits), and Pleasant Hill Road.

2.2 OVERVIEW OF THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN AND ITS ASSOCIATED EIR

PURPOSE OF A GENERAL PLAN

California state law requires each city and county to adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the city or county and any land outside its boundaries which bears relation to its planning (California Government Code Section 65300).

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The general plan expresses the community's development goals and embodies public policy relative to the distribution of future land uses, both public and private. A city or county's zoning, specific plans, subdivisions, capital improvements, development agreements, and many other land use actions must be consistent with the adopted general plan.

In accordance with California Government Code Section 65302, a general plan must address the issues of land use, circulation, housing, noise, safety, conservation, and open space. In addition to the mandatory elements, a city or county may adopt any other elements that relate to its physical development (California Government Code Section 65303). Common themes for optional elements include air quality, capital improvements, community design, economic development, energy, parks and recreation, and water. California Government Code Section 65300.5 specifically requires that the elements and associated policy provisions are internally consistent and that no one element or provision of a general plan carries greater weight than another.

BACKGROUND OF THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN AND ITS ASSOCIATED EIR

The Walnut Creek General Plan was adopted and its associated EIR (SCH #2004022042) was certified in April 2006 by the Walnut Creek City Council. The adopted General Plan includes all seven mandated elements encapsulated in the General Plan's Quality of Life Element, Natural Environment Element, Built Environment Element, Transportation Element, Safety and Noise Element, Housing Element, and Governance Element. These General Plan elements include policies and actions addressing sustainability and conservation and the need to address climate change. These policies were analyzed in the General Plan EIR and include the following:

- 2.2 Cooperate with East Bay Regional Parks and other jurisdictions to improve connections to regional trails.
 - 2.2.1 Improve signage and displays along regional trails to provide better way finding and to direct users to convenient rest areas and other facilities.
- 2.3 Promote the safety of bicyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians.
- 3.1 Create opportunities for mixed-use developments.
 - 3.1.1 Encourage mixed-use development at and near the Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill BART Stations.
- 4.1 Plan for a full complement of interconnected trails and paths for walkers, joggers, bicyclists, and equestrians, from the regional trails to downtown trails and paths.
 - 4.1.1 Work with the County, the East Bay Regional Park District, and other agencies to develop trail links between residential areas and parks, creeks, transportation, schools, open space, shopping, and various public facilities.
 - 4.1.3 Complete bicycle and pedestrian trail linkages, including the following:
 - In the Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek BART areas
 - From Heather Farm Park to John Muir Medical Center

- Along the Iron Horse Regional Trail near the Sugarloaf Open Space, downtown, Las Lomas High School and Walden Park.
- 4.1.4 Use existing easements and creeks for trail links to neighborhoods.
- 5.1 Promote bicycle use as an alternative way to get to work, school, shopping, recreational facilities, and transit stops.
- 5.1.4 Periodically update and distribute a map identifying bikeways in the city and environs.
- 5.1.5 Pursue grants for construction and development of new and improved bicycle facilities.
- 5.2 Provide facilities that encourage and support bicycle travel.
- 5.2.1 Require appropriate bicycle-related improvements as a condition of site development, design review, subdivision, or building permit approval and for all City street-widening projects.
- 5.2.3 Improve signalized intersections for bicyclist use along highly traveled bicycle corridors.
- 5.2.4 Provide bicycle racks and other bike storage facilities at key high-use public locations.
- 5.2.5 Working with local school districts, plan safe, pleasant, and attractive bicycle routes to school and organize programs that promote bicycling.
- 5.2.7 Revise design guidelines to require, where appropriate, new projects to provide weather-protected, safe bike parking and/or storage facilities and other bicycle-friendly amenities.
- 5.2.8 Revise design guidelines to encourage the installation of shower facilities in large, new office developments.
- 5.3 Oppose the use of motorized transportation (trains, buses, autos, motorcycles) on the Iron Horse Corridor between the Pleasant Hill BART station and Newell Avenue.
- 6.1 Provide safe and attractive pedestrian routes along arterials and collectors leading to schools, along arterials or collectors that carry high traffic volumes, on all downtown streets, along major streets leading to the downtown, and on all streets leading to transit facilities.
- 6.1.2 Working with local school districts, plan safe and attractive pedestrian routes to schools, and organize programs that promote walking.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- 6.1.4 Eliminate “gaps” in sidewalks/walkways and support the additional connections to regional trails and trailheads.
- 6.1.5 Provide improved pedestrian facilities via grants and assistance to residents in forming assessment districts.
- 6.2.1. In the Pedestrian Retail District, require pedestrian-oriented uses at street level.
- 6.2.2. Promote building layouts and designs that create pedestrian interest and encourage people to “park once and walk.”
- 6.4.1. Encourage diverse housing options, including mixed-use, higher-density developments.
- 7.2 Encourage improvements to transit systems that connect Walnut Creek residents to regional locations.
- 7.3 Link high-density residential developments, schools, employment centers, and shopping areas via transit.
- 7.3.1 Work with the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCCTA) to ensure frequent, peak-hour transit services, including express bus, to Walnut Creek schools, employment and activity centers, and park-and-ride lots.
- 7.5.4 Require, where appropriate, that new developments provide transit amenities as a condition of project approval.
- 8.1 Provide, monitor, and continuously improve a coordinated set of convenient, efficient transportation alternatives for those who would otherwise drive alone, including employees and school children of driving age.
- 8.5 Link high-density residential developments, employment centers, and shopping areas via transit, bikeways, and walkways.
- 9.2.1 Convert selected streets to temporary pedestrian-only use on a regularly scheduled basis.
- 9.2.2 Establish a trail connection that links BART to Mt. Diablo Boulevard and the Pedestrian Retail District (similar to the one identified in the 2002 Shaping Our Future workshop).
- 10.1 Link existing and planned bikeways in and through downtown.
- 10.1.1. Apply land use designations that encourage transit- oriented development around the BART stations and in the Core Area.
- 12.1.1. Review the use of park-and-ride lots to maximize use.

- 12.1.2. Update the transportation systems management (TSM) ordinance or resolution, as needed.
- 12.1.3. Encourage transportation demand management (TDM) programs in new development.
- 12.2.1. Adopt a voter approved Urban Limit Line, either as mutually voted on countywide or relating solely to Walnut Creek.
- 15.1 Encourage new development that optimizes both interconnecting street layouts within a neighborhood or residential subdivision and street and walkway/bikeway connections to surrounding neighborhoods and nearby commercial areas.
- 15.1.1. In new development where street connections are possible, encourage both street and walkway/bikeway connections and discourage use of cul-de-sacs.
- 21.1.1. Revise City Design Review Guidelines to encourage developers to include the following features in the development of new and the redevelopment of existing shopping centers:
- Pedestrian walkways and bikeway connections that create safe paths of travel through the shopping center and parking, and to transit and nearby sidewalks
 - Attractive and convenient bicycle parking
 - Orientation of buildings to transit facilities, where applicable
- 23.3.1. Work with the County toward ensuring that development of the Pleasant Hill BART station area is compatible with and accessible to adjacent areas within the incorporated city.
26. 2. Incorporate natural features such as trees, hillsides, and rock outcroppings into new development.
- 26.3. Preserve and add to the city's tree canopy.
- 26.4. Protect tree resources on public and private property.
- 26.5.1. Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of, and if necessary modify, the City's Tree Preservation Ordinance.
- 26.5.2. Plan for the replacement of trees that have been removed.
- 26.5.3. Set standards for – and require new developments to have – adequate tree canopy

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- 26.7.1. Consider adopting a “dark sky ordinance” aimed at reducing light spillage both upward and onto adjoining properties.
- 27.1.1. Develop incentives to use green building techniques.
- 27.1.1. Consider adding an energy audit requirement to the City’s review processes.
- 27.1.2. Consider adding an energy-audit requirement to the City’s review process.
- 27.1.2. Explore incentives to use green building techniques.
- 28.1 Implement energy conservation measures in City facilities and operations.
- 28.1.1 Conduct an energy audit of all City activities and functions.
- 28.2 Promote energy conservation throughout the city.
- 28.2.1 Adopt residential and commercial energy-conservation ordinances.
- 28.2.2 Adopt a solar-access ordinance.
- 28.2.3 Develop incentives to help small businesses become more energy efficient.
- 28.2.4 Develop incentives for new development or substantial redevelopment to incorporate energy conservation.
- 29.2.1 Explore possibilities for safe and effective use of reclaimed or recycled water consistent with State law (e.g., for landscape irrigation and toilet flushing in commercial buildings).
- 29.2.4 Follow existing standards and guidelines for water-conserving landscaping, and encourage the planting of native and drought-tolerant plants.
- 30.1.1. Implement source-reduction and waste-diversion programs within City government.
- 30.1.2. Give preference to recycled content and environmentally friendly products in City procurement.
- 30.2.1. Locally implement the State’s 1993 Source Reduction and Recycling Element.
- 30.2.2. Consider adopting a comprehensive source-reduction and recycling plan specific to Walnut Creek.
- 30.2.3. Promote and participate in residential and commercial waste prevention and diversion programs.
- 30.2.4. Make recycling convenient for small businesses.

- 30.2.5. Develop size, location, and design standards for commercial and multifamily trash and recycling facilities and enclosures.
- 30.2.6. Consider an ordinance requiring businesses and multifamily dwellings to participate in recycling and waste-reduction programs.
- 30.2.7. Require the recycling of construction waste for all City and private projects.
- 30.2.8. Encourage shared recycling facilities among businesses, especially those with limited space, for example, within the Core Area.
- 30.2.9. Provide accessible disposal containers, including recycling containers, at appropriate locations downtown and at City public facilities and parks.
- 30.3.1. Work with waste management companies to institute curbside residential organic waste-collection programs.
- 30.3.2. Encourage restaurants to recycle organic waste.
- 31.1.1. Support local transportation control measures (TCMs) and other ideas in the latest Bay Area Clean Air Plan.
- 31.1.2. Develop a local, voluntary Clean Air Plan.
- 31.1.3. Participate in the BAAQMD Spare the Air program.
- 31.2.1. Review parking lot landscaping requirements to ensure adequate width and depth to allow for appropriate tree canopy.
- 31.2.2. Investigate policies that promote cleaner air, such as commercial reflective roofing ordinances.
- 31.2.3. Promote residential development and redevelopment opportunities near transit and commercial centers, and encourage walking, bicycling, and transit use.
- 31.3.2. Adopt a wood smoke ordinance.

2.3 OVERVIEW OF THE WALNUT CREEK CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

PURPOSE OF THE CAP

The purpose of the Walnut Creek Climate Action Plan (CAP) is to identify how the City will achieve (or exceed) its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target of 15 percent below 2005 emissions levels by the year 2020, as required by state legislation. (Community-wide activities, including municipal operations, emitted approximately 643,596 metric tons of CO₂e in 2005.) The CAP provides goals and associated measures, also referred to as climate change mitigation measures, in the sectors of energy use, transportation, land use, and solid waste. In addition, the CAP provides goals and measures for longer-term climate change adaptation and plan implementation, acknowledging that adaptation to climate change is necessary as

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

reductions in GHG will not immediately reverse the impacts of climate change. The CAP is intended to be an adaptively managed document with the flexibility to change and be modified as the science and regulatory framework around climate change is further refined in coming years. The goals and measures presented in the CAP have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 104,747 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e) compared with business as usual projections by 2020.¹ With the incorporation of State-mandated initiatives, emissions in Walnut Creek would be reduced by another 129,901 metric tons CO₂e for a total reduction of 15.4 percent from the 2005 baseline by 2020. These goals and measures include those listed below.

BACKGROUND OF THE CAP

In 2007, the City joined ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI). Membership in ICLEI requires local governments to initiate and implement reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, members are asked to determine current greenhouse gas emissions, set reduction targets, develop and implement local action plans to achieve targets, and monitor progress and report results. Each jurisdiction has the responsibility to provide local leadership for achievement of local targets as well as contributions to regional success.

Walnut Creek initiated an internal green team in 2008 to identify emissions reduction targets, policies, and actions to reduce emissions and develop a framework for advancing the greenhouse gas reduction process in Walnut Creek. The City completed a GHG emissions inventory in 2008 as an important first step in defining the baseline for Walnut Creek's efforts to address climate change.

The CAP is the culmination of numerous city and regional initiatives including the following:

- The City has worked to address traffic concerns since the 1950s through new roadways and major road improvements and, in subsequent years, through growth management measures and a transportation demand management (TDM) program.
- Efforts to preserve open space in the 1970s demonstrate Walnut Creek's early commitment to sustainability. Walnut Creek has the largest aggregation of city-owned open space in the United States: 2,704 acres of oak woodland, savannah, and chaparral.
- Walnut Creek has offered a free BART shuttle to its Downtown since 1986. The shuttle has quickly become the most heavily used bus route in the county's system.
- Downtown Walnut Creek's dense mix of land uses and "park-once" strategy. The strategy—in which shoppers, visitors, and employees park once and then enjoy walking or using the free shuttle to get around Downtown—reduces the number of vehicle trips and thus reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
- Walnut Creek's network of multi-use pathways ensures that residents can travel safely by bicycle and on foot. Grade-separated crossings, such as the Iron Horse Trail overcrossing of Ygnacio Valley Road, help to reduce congestion and ensure safe crossings for all types of cyclists and pedestrians.

¹ Carbon dioxide equivalents represent the standard measurement unit for greenhouse gas emissions.

- The City has offered curbside recycling for nearly 20 years, which allows households to recycle newspapers, glass, and aluminum cans. Recycling is also offered at City facilities.
- The City fleet includes clean air vehicles, electric vehicles, and vehicles that run on natural gas and electricity. These vehicles greatly reduce carbon emissions.
- City traffic lights have been converted to light-emitting diodes (LEDs), which use less power than conventional traffic lights and last longer. The City has completed numerous other lighting retrofits for increased energy efficiency.
- The City has been planning for sustainability for many years, with General Plan 2025 featuring 23 policies and 58 action items focused on environmental integrity.
- Walnut Creek worked with Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Energy Watch to complete a citywide Energy Assessment Report, Energy Action Plan, and City Hall Retro-Commissioning.
- The City has built a “green” library that was completed in 2010. The facility includes numerous green features such as sun screens, Energy Star heating and cooling systems, energy-efficient lighting, infrastructure for future photovoltaic installation, and recycling of construction waste. The City is pursuing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the library.

MUNICIPAL GOALS AND MEASURES – CAP

Building (B) Goals and Measures

Goal B 1	Integrate energy efficiency and other green building practices into new City facilities.
Measure B 1.1	Municipal Green Building Policy: Adopt a green building policy for new construction and major renovations of municipal facilities that exceeds current Title 24 energy standards to facilitate the continued implementation of municipal green building and establish the City as a leader in the community.
Measure B 1.2	Municipal Energy Audits and Upgrades: Continue to conduct energy audits of all City facilities, identify opportunities for energy savings, and implement recommended, cost-effective energy efficiency retrofit upgrades, including solar and tankless water heaters, and energy-efficient ventilation and air conditioning.
Goal B 2	Conduct efficiency audits and implement energy/water efficiency retrofits to existing City facilities.
Measure B 2.1	Water-Conserving Equipment in Municipal Facilities: Install water-conserving equipment (e.g., faucets, high-efficiency toilets, and, if applicable, showerheads) in all City facilities.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Measure B 2.2	Reflective Roofing on City Facilities: Continue to install reflective roofing on select City facilities to reduce building energy (heating/cooling) consumption.
Goal B 3	Establish energy and water management and operations policies and practices for City facilities.
Measure B 3.1	Loans for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: Establish a reinvestment loan fund to cover first costs for energy efficiency/renewable energy projects at City facilities.
Measure B 3.2	Energy-Efficient Electronics: Continue to replace in City facilities existing outdated electronic appliances and office equipment in favor of those that are more energy efficient.
Measure B 3.3	Demand Response Programs: Continue to participate in demand response programs.
Measure B 3.4	Reduced Lighting Usage: Lights-Out Policy at City Facilities: Reduce lighting use by instituting a lights-out-at-night policy at City facilities where feasible.
Measure B 3.5	Drought-Tolerant Landscaping at Municipal Facilities: Expand current energy-efficient and drought-tolerant landscaping practices at City facilities to exceed current levels.
Measure B 3.6	Expand Tree Cover at Municipal Facilities: Reduce energy use by planting trees to shade City facilities where feasible.
Goal B 4	Consider clean energy alternatives for City facilities and operations.
Measure B 4.1	Solar Electric Arrays: Conduct a solar feasibility study and install solar electric (PV) arrays at/on appropriate City facilities, and identify additional opportunities for increasing renewable energy systems, including wind energy generation.
Measure B 4.2	Solar Water Heating: Install solar water heating at/on appropriate City facilities.

Municipal Streetlights (S) Goals and Measures

Goal S 1	Implement energy management and operations practices for City-owned streetlights.
Measure S 1.1	High-Efficiency Streetlights: Continue to replace low-efficiency streetlights with high-efficiency light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures as funding becomes available.

Municipal Waste Reduction (MWR) Goals and Measures

Goal MWR 1	Implement waste reduction practices in all City facilities.
------------	---

- Measure MWR 1.1 Waste Prevention: Require waste prevention in day-to-day operations (e.g., two-sided copying, reduced paper requirements) in all City facilities.
- Goal MWR 2 Encourage recycling of used materials whenever feasible at City facilities.
- Measure MWR 2.1 Expand Recycling Programs: Expand City Hall, Police Station, and City parks recycling programs into all City facilities.

Municipal Transportation (MT) Goals and Measures

- Goal MT 1 Increase the number of fuel-efficient vehicles in the City's fleet.
- Measure MT 1.1 Purchase of Alternative Fuel/Fuel-Efficient Vehicles: Continue to require the purchase of alternative fuel and/or fuel-efficient vehicles.
- Goal MT 2 Establish energy-efficient fleet management and operation practices.
- Measure MT 2.1 Reduce Fleet Size: Continue to reduce fleet size (i.e., total number of vehicles) by retiring older and underused vehicles.
- Measure MT 2.2 Reduce Idling: Institute a policy to limit idling of City fleet vehicles.
- Measure MT 2.3 Fleet Maintenance: Continue to implement a maintenance regime for increased efficiency for City vehicles (e.g., regularly check tire pressure).
- Measure MT 2.4 Scheduling & Routing Efficiency: Improve scheduling and route efficiency for using City vehicles.
- Goal MT 3 Provide alternative transportation options for all City employees.
- Measure MT 3.1 Municipal Commuter Programs: Continue to implement incentive programs to reduce municipal employee commute (e.g., parking cash-out, telecommute, bike checkout).
- Measure MT 3.2 Municipal Bicycle Program: Provide bicycles for daily trips for City employees.

Municipal Education and Outreach (MEO) Goals and Measures

- Goal MEO 1 Inform City employees of sustainability initiatives/upgrades to City facilities and engage employees in behavior-based programming to complement these efforts.
- Measure MEO 1.1 Employee Education: Conduct workplace sustainability education programs with City employees focused on energy/water conservation, waste reduction/diversion practices, and transportation/commute alternatives.
- Goal MEPP 1 Expand City environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) efforts.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Measure MEPP 1.1 Expand Environmentally Preferable Purchasing: Create and implement environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) categories and practices in City facilities.

COMMUNITY GOALS AND MEASURES – CAP

Energy Use (EU) Goals and Measures

Goal EU 1 Increase energy efficiency and conservation efforts.

Measure EU 1.1 Voluntary Residential Energy Conservation: Create a Residential Energy Conservation Program in partnership with the Contra Costa Realtors Association that leverages financial incentives, local partnerships, and education for voluntary home energy efficiency improvements, with a target of achieving an average 20% in energy savings for 6% of the existing housing stock by 2015, 13% of the existing housing stock by 2020, and 27% by 2030.

Measure EU 1.2 Commercial Energy Conservation Program: Work with the Downtown Business Association, Chamber of Commerce, Contra Costa Realtors Association, and PG&E to develop a voluntary Commercial Energy Conservation Program for highly collaborative, incentive-based energy efficiency efforts, with a target of achieving an average of 25% energy savings for 600 businesses by 2020 and 800 businesses by 2035.

Measure EU 1.3 Public Outreach: Continue to partner with PG&E and EBMUD to educate and inform the community about ways to improve energy efficiency, including behavioral changes, appliance purchases and rebates, maintenance practices, and more.

Goal EU 2 Promote and support renewable energy generation and use.

Measure EU 2.1 Renewable Energy Strategy: Develop a renewable energy strategy that encourages residential solar energy systems through streamlined permit procedures, adoption of incentives, fee waivers, and potential for a municipal finance district program that provides a low-risk option for property owners to invest in on-site renewable energy installations.

Goal EU 3 Facilitate green building and design.

Measure EU 3.1 Green Building Ordinance: Adopt CALGreen Tier 1 by 2014 to exceed Title 24 energy efficiency standards by 15%, and adopt CALGreen Tier 2 by 2017 to exceed Title 24 energy efficiency standards by 30%.

Measure EU 3.2 Urban Forestry: Increase tree cover throughout the city, with special emphasis on shading east and west walls of structures.

Goal EU 4 Reduce energy use through increased water conservation.

Measure EU 4.1 Water Conservation: Work with EBMUD and CCWD to ensure that the Walnut Creek community achieves regional and statewide water

reduction targets, including a 20% reduction as established by the State's 20X2020 plan.

Transportation and Land Use (TLU) Goals and Measures

Goal TLU 1	Reduce GHG emissions through use of alternative vehicles, trip reduction and consolidation, and efficient traffic flow.
Measure TLU 1.1	Low-Emission Vehicle Facilities: Facilitate the use of low-emission vehicles by coordinating with regional and state agencies for region-wide low-emission vehicle infrastructure improvements and networks.
Measure TLU 1.2	Transportation Demand Management (TDM): Continue to promote ridesharing and TDM programs with the CMA and 511.org to reduce use of traditional motor vehicles. Create a citywide car-sharing program to achieve further reductions in vehicle miles traveled.
Measure TLU 1.3	Traffic Calming: Continue to install street design features such as landscaped medians and roundabouts in order to reduce vehicle speeds, volumes, and idling.
Measure TLU 1.4	Efficient Traffic Signal Timing: Reduce vehicle emissions through an effective traffic signal synchronization program.
Goal TLU 2	Reduce vehicle miles traveled through smart land use and design.
Measure TLU 2.1	Smart Growth: Provide incentives to encourage higher-density, mixed-use, infill development and continue to require such development through regulations.
Measure TLU 2.2	Jobs/Housing Balance: Attract job-generating uses that will provide a variety of employment opportunities and improve the jobs/housing balance within Walnut Creek.
Measure TLU 2.3	Affordable Housing: Continue to support affordable housing development through implementation of the City's Housing Element.
Goal TLU 3	Convert vehicular trips to non-vehicular or transit trips.
Measure TLU 3.1	Bicycle Planning: Continue to implement the projects and recommendations contained in the City's Draft Bicycle Master Plan and incorporate bicycle lanes and routes into street systems, new subdivisions, and large developments.
Measure TLU 3.2	Multi-Modal Wayfinding: Develop and implement a comprehensive wayfinding system for the city's bicycle and pedestrian transportation networks.
Measure TLU 3.3	Bicycle Parking: Increase the number and locations of bicycle parking by requiring new development or redevelopment to provide adequate short- and long-term bicycle parking facilities.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Measure TLU 3.4	Transit Incentives: Provide public transit incentives such as free or low-cost monthly transit passes to encourage the use of transportation alternatives, including provision of parking “cash-out” options.
Measure TLU 3.5	BART Shuttles: Investigate ways to increase the frequency and range of BART shuttles.
Measure TLU 3.6	Safe Routes to School: Work with local schools to expand Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) programs.
Measure TLU 3.7	Parking Management: Implement and maintain a comprehensive Parking Management Plan with an emphasis on reducing the vehicle miles traveled due to unnecessary circulation.

Waste Reduction (WR) Goals and Measures

Goal WR 1	Implement a zero waste policy to reduce waste sent to the landfill.
Measure WR 1.1	Zero Waste: Reduce landfilled waste and increase promotion of recycling and composting through an expanded public education campaign, community-wide incentives, and continued partnership with the Bay Area's Green Business Program.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Goals and Measures

Goal EPP 1	Investigate promoting the purchase of local goods and services.
Measure EPP 1.1	Green Businesses: Investigate local partnerships or creation of a forum to promote and equip local green businesses (for example, through the Chamber of Commerce).
Goal EPP 2	Encourage residents in green lifestyles.
Measure EPP 2.1	Going Green: Continue and expand the efforts of the City's Going Green Initiatives.
Measure EPP 2.2	Urban Agriculture: Increase and encourage urban agriculture through incentives and streamlined application procedures.

The CAP encompasses Walnut Creek's current and future efforts to reduce GHG emissions and reduce the effects of global climate change within the city. The CAP is an integral part of planning and development in Walnut Creek in the coming years and serves as an analytical link for the City between local development, state requirements, and regional efforts. It is also a way for the City to determine consistency with state legislation, such as Assembly Bill (AB) 32 (AB 32 is codified at Health and Safety Code Sections 38500, 38501, 28510, 38530, 38550, 38560, 38561–38565, 38570, 38571, 38574, 38580, 38590, 38592–38599), which mandates that local governments address greenhouse gas emissions in local planning and environmental documents.

Specifically, the CAP:

- Identifies sources of GHG emissions from sources within the City of Walnut Creek's jurisdictional/political boundary and estimates how these emissions may change over time.
- Outlines ways in which the City can prepare for and adapt to the consequences of climate change.
- Discusses the various outcomes of reduction efforts and how these reduction efforts can be implemented and advertised.
- Provides energy use, transportation, land use, and solid waste strategies to reduce Walnut Creek's GHG emissions levels to 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2020.
- Mitigates Walnut Creek's impacts on climate change by reducing GHG emissions consistent with the direction of the State of California through the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), Governor's Order S-03-05, and Public Resources Code Section 21083.3. [The CEQA Guidelines encourage the adoption of policies or programs as a means of addressing comprehensively the cumulative impacts of projects. See CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064, subd. (h)(3), Section 15130, subd. (c).]
- Provides substantial evidence that the emission reductions estimated in the CAP are feasible.
- Meets the requirements of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD) criteria for a qualified GHG reduction strategy as defined in BAAQMD's updated CEQA Air Quality Guidelines.

The CAP is also structured to serve as a programmatic tiering document for future development projects pursuant to the requirements of CEQA. By incorporating the goals and measures of the CAP into the General Plan EIR through a GPEIR addendum, Walnut Creek is ensuring that future development and planning activities in the city conform to the objectives of the CAP and state climate change legislation. The Climate Action Plan is intended to be an adaptively managed document with the flexibility to change and be modified as the science and regulatory framework around climate change is further refined in coming years. It is recommended that the CAP be reviewed every five years to ensure the most appropriate information and emission reduction measures are included in the Plan.

This Addendum has been prepared consistent with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5, Tiering and Streamlining the Analysis of Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Section 15183.5 provides that:

(a) Lead agencies may analyze and mitigate the significant effects of greenhouse gas emissions at a programmatic level, such as in a general plan, a long range development plan, or a separate plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Later project-specific environmental documents may tier from and/or incorporate by reference that existing programmatic review. Project-specific environmental documents may rely on an EIR containing a programmatic analysis of greenhouse gas emissions as provided in section 15152 (tiering), 15167 (staged EIRs) 15168 (program EIRs), 15175-15179.5 (Master EIRs), 15182 (EIRs Prepared for Specific Plans), and 15183 (EIRs Prepared for General Plans, Community Plans, or Zoning).

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(b) *Plans for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.* Public agencies may choose to analyze and mitigate significant greenhouse gas emissions in a plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or similar document. A plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions may be used in a cumulative impacts analysis as set forth below. Pursuant to sections 15064(h)(3) and 15130(d), a lead agency may determine that a project's incremental contribution to a cumulative effect is not cumulatively considerable if the project complies with the requirements in a previously adopted plan or mitigation program under specified circumstances.

(1) *Plan Elements.* A plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions should:

- (A) *Quantify greenhouse gas emissions, both existing and projected over a specified time period, resulting from activities within a defined geographic area;*
- (B) *Establish a level, based on substantial evidence, below which the contribution to greenhouse gas emissions from activities covered by the plan would not be cumulatively considerable;*
- (C) *Identify and analyze the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from specific actions or categories of actions anticipated within the geographic area;*
- (D) *Specify measures or a group of measures, including performance standards, that substantial evidence demonstrates, if implemented on a project-by-project basis, would collectively achieve the specified emissions level;*
- (E) *Establish a mechanism to monitor the plan's progress toward achieving the level and to require amendment if the plan is not achieving specified levels;*
- (F) *Be adopted in a public process following environmental review.*

(2) *Use with Later Activities.* A plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, once adopted following certification of an EIR or adoption of an environmental document, may be used in the cumulative impacts analysis of later projects. An environmental document that relies on a greenhouse gas reduction plan for a cumulative impacts analysis must identify those requirements specified in the plan that apply to the project, and, if those requirements are not otherwise binding and enforceable, incorporate those requirements as mitigation measures applicable to the project. If there is substantial evidence that the effects of a particular project may be cumulatively considerable notwithstanding the project's compliance with the specified requirements in the plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, an EIR must be prepared for the project.

2.4 PURPOSE OF ADDENDUM

This Addendum incorporates the goals and measures of this CAP into the General Plan EIR in order to ensure that future development and planning activities within the City of Walnut Creek conform to the objectives of the CAP and state climate change legislation.

The analysis provided in this Addendum (see Section 3.0 for the technical analysis) provides substantial evidence to support that none of the following circumstances set forth in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 would result from adoption of the proposed Walnut Creek Climate

Action Plan. CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 and the Addendum's consistency with these guidelines have been addressed in Section 1.0 and Section 3.0 of this document.

Information and technical analyses from the Walnut Creek General Plan EIR are utilized throughout this Addendum. Relevant passages from this document (consisting of the Draft EIR and Final EIR) are cited and are available for review at:

City of Walnut Creek
City Hall, 1666 North Main Street
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

This section of the Addendum provides analysis and cites substantial evidence that supports the City's determination that the environmental effects of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) do not meet the criteria for preparing a subsequent or supplemental EIR under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 and are consistent with the provisions of Section 15183.5. The reader is referred to discussions of the Addendum's consistency with CEQA Guidelines in Sections 1.0 and 2.0 of this document.

As addressed in the analysis below, the proposed municipal goals and measures included in the CAP are beneficial. They would not cause a new significant impact or substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts from the General Plan EIR (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162[a][1]) that would require major revisions to the General Plan EIR – State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042 (City of Walnut Creek 2006). All impacts would be nearly equivalent to the impacts previously analyzed in the General Plan EIR. The General Plan EIR identified one significant and unavoidable impact on air quality and four significant and unavoidable impacts on traffic. These impacts would remain significant and unavoidable with implementation of the CAP, but not be substantially increased in severity.

Second, the proposed CAP would not result in substantial changes in physical circumstances that would cause a new significant impact or substantially increase the severity of a previously identified significant impact, and there have been no other changes in the circumstances that meet this criterion (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162[a][2]). Rather, the CAP would result in beneficial actions that promote green building practices such as use of environmentally friendly building materials, reduced water and energy usage, and waste reduction. There have been no changes in the environmental conditions in the City of Walnut Creek Planning Area not contemplated and analyzed in the General Plan EIR that would result in new or substantially more severe environmental impacts in association with implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

Third, as documented in this section, there is no new information of substantial importance (which was not known or could not have been known at the time of the General Plan adoption on April 4, 2006) that identifies a new significant impact (condition "A" under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162[a][3]); a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact (condition "B" State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162[a][3]); mitigation measures or alternatives previously found infeasible that would now be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the General Plan; or mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the General Plan EIR which would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment (conditions "C" and "D" State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162[a][3]).

An addendum is appropriate here because, as explained in Section 2.0, the CAP is a subsequent project under the General Plan and the project is consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5. The CAP is also being structured to serve as a programmatic tiering document for future development projects pursuant to the requirements of CEQA. By incorporating the goals and measures of this CAP into the General Plan EIR through a General Plan EIR addendum, Walnut Creek is ensuring that future development and planning activities in the city conform to the objectives of the CAP and state climate change legislation.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

3.1 LAND USE

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

- Impact 1:** Dividing Established Community (no impact)
- Impact 2:** Land Use Compatibility (less than significant)
- Impact 3:** Consistency with Applicable Plans (no impact)

These less than significant impacts were addressed on Draft EIR pages 47 through 49 (divide an established community, land use compatibility, consistency with applicable plans). Neither Impact 1 nor Impact 3 identified in the General Plan EIR can be tied to the CAP, as the CAP contains no policy provisions that would increase the chance of impacts related to dividing an established community or applicable plans. The less than significant land use compatibility impact could be tied to CAP Building (B) Goal B 4 and associated measures and Transportation and Land Use (TLU) Measure TLU 2.1.

PROPOSED CAP

NEW OR INCREASED SEVERITY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Overall, the proposed project would not result in new land use impacts that were not addressed in the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042). There would be no provisions implemented under the CAP that would divide an established community, create land use compatibilities, or result in inconsistency with any applicable plans, and no cumulative land use impacts would occur. Any land use impacts that may occur would likely be a result of CAP Goal B 4 and associated measures as well as Measure TLU 2.1. No other aspects of the CAP would be likely to result in such impacts. A further analysis is provided below.

- Goal B 4 Consider clean energy alternatives for City facilities and operations.
- Measure B 4.1 Solar Electric Arrays: Conduct a solar feasibility study and install solar electric (PV) arrays at/on appropriate City facilities, and identify additional opportunities for increasing renewable energy systems, including wind energy generation.
- Measure B 4.2 Solar Water Heating: Install solar water heating at/on appropriate City facilities.
- Measure TLU 2.1 Smart Growth: Provide incentives to encourage higher-density, mixed-use, infill development and continue to require such development through regulations.

As described under the less than significant land use compatibility impact in Chapter 4.1 (Land Use) of the Draft EIR, the General Plan could result in some land uses, including industrial and commercial, that could significantly impact sensitive land uses such as residential land uses. Proposed CAP Goal B 4 and associated measures as well as Measure TLU 2.1 would not result in incompatible land uses despite the possibility of renewable energy systems like wind energy generation or higher-density development. This is due to General Plan Built Environment Action 5.1.1, which would require the City to study surrounding properties and uses for potential conflicts

and address those conflicts through the City's review process prior to approval of any such systems. In addition, Built Environment Action 13.1.1 requires the City to confirm that project designs are compatible with adjacent uses during the City's review process. Therefore, CAP Goal B 4 and associated measures and Measure TLU 2.1 would not result in new land use impacts that were not addressed in the General Plan EIR, nor would the CAP increase the severity of any previously identified impact.

Substantial Changes in the Circumstances or New Information Associated with the City and Its Planning Area

There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standards for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. Environmental effects and land use impacts of the Walnut Creek General Plan were evaluated in the General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 47 through 49). No changes in land use patterns are proposed in association with the CAP. The CAP would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.2 POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND HOUSING

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

- Impact 1:** Population (less than significant)
- Impact 2:** Employment (beneficial)
- Impact 3:** Housing (less than significant)

These less than significant impacts were addressed on Draft EIR pages 60 through 63 (population, employment, and housing). All of the impacts identified for population, employment, and housing could be affected by CAP Transportation and Land Use (TLU) Measures TLU 2.2 and TLU 2.3, as discussed below.

PROPOSED CAP

NEW OR INCREASED SEVERITY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Overall, the proposed project would not result in new population, employment, or housing impacts that were not addressed in the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042). There would be no provisions implemented under the CAP that would result in population-related impacts or impact employment or housing, and no cumulative impacts would occur. Any potential population, employment, and housing-related impacts that may occur would be as a result of CAP Measures TLU 2.2 and TLU 2.3. No other aspects of the CAP would be likely to result in such impact potential. A further analysis is provided below.

Measure TLU 2.2 Jobs/Housing Balance: Attract job-generating uses that will provide a variety of employment opportunities and improve the jobs/housing balance within Walnut Creek.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Measure TLU 2.3 Affordable Housing: Continue to support affordable housing development through implementation of the City's Housing Element.

As described in Chapter 4.2 (Population, Employment, and Housing) of the Draft EIR, the General Plan could result in the addition of 16,428 persons, 8,115 housing units, and 33,095 jobs. Furthermore, the General Plan would result in a beneficial impact to employment within the city, as Quality of Life Element Policy 2.9 promotes a range of quality housing and affordable workforce housing options. The proposed CAP does not modify the density or land use of any given portion of the city, thus it does not contain any provisions that would result in an increase of population, housing, or employment beyond growth already identified in the General Plan EIR. Measures TLU 2.2 and TLU 2.3 would continue encouraging employment opportunities and affordable housing within the city. However, any increases in population and employment would be a function of the General Plan overall and not these specific measures of the CAP. As such, the environmental impact of the General Plan is essentially unchanged by these measures.

It should also be noted that there are no physical improvements proposed as part of the CAP. Therefore, the CAP would not result in new population, employment, or housing impacts that were not addressed in the General Plan EIR, nor would it cause any previously identified impact to be more severe than originally described.

Substantial Changes in the Circumstances or New Information Associated with the City and Its Planning Area

There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standards for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. Environmental effects and population, employment, and housing impacts of the Walnut Creek General Plan were evaluated in the General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 60 through 63). No changes in land use patterns are proposed in association with the proposed CAP. The CAP would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.3 COMMUNITY SERVICES

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

- Impact 1:** Fire Service (less than significant)
- Impact 2:** Police Services (less than significant)
- Impact 3:** Schools (less than significant)
- Impact 4:** Libraries (less than significant)
- Impact 5:** Parks (less than significant)

These less than significant impacts were addressed on Draft EIR pages 69 through 96 (fire service, police services, schools, libraries, parks). None of the impacts identified for community services can be tied to the CAP, as the CAP contains no policy provisions related to these community services.

PROPOSED CAP

NEW OR INCREASED SEVERITY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Overall, the proposed project would not result in new community service impacts that were not addressed in the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042). There would be no provisions implemented under the CAP that would result in population growth, and thus services to the community would not be affected as these services are impacted proportionate to the number of people using them. Similarly, since the CAP does not induce or call for additional growth, no cumulative impacts would occur. Therefore, the CAP would not result in community service impacts that were not addressed in the General Plan EIR, nor would it cause any previously identified impacts to be more severe than originally identified.

Substantial Changes in the Circumstances or New Information Associated with the City and Its Planning Area

There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standards for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The environmental effects of community service-related impacts of the Walnut Creek General Plan were evaluated in the General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 69 through 96). No changes in land use patterns are proposed in association with the CAP and provisions implemented under the CAP that would result in population growth. The CAP would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.4 TRANSPORTATION

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

Impact TRAF-1: The land use development proposed in the General Plan 2025 Buildout Alternative would contribute to freeway speeds of less than 30 miles per hour during the peak hour along I 680 through Walnut Creek. (significant and unavoidable)

Impact TRAF-2: The land use development proposed in the General Plan 2025 Buildout Alternative would contribute to the degradation of the level of service at the following arterial segments:

- Mt. Diablo Boulevard between Bonanza Street and California Boulevard
- Bancroft Road south of Treat Boulevard
- California Boulevard between Trinity Avenue/Civic Drive and Bonanza Street
- Civic Drive between Ygnacio Valley Road and Broadway
- South Broadway north of Newell Avenue
- South Broadway north of Rudgear Road

(significant and unavoidable)

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Impact TRAF-3: The land use development proposed in the General Plan 2025 Buildout Alternative would contribute to delay indices greater than 2.0 along these Routes of Regional Significance:

- Ygnacio Valley Road Westbound
- Treat Boulevard Eastbound and Westbound

(significant and unavoidable)

Impact TRAF-4: The land use development proposed in General Plan 2025 would contribute to the degradation of the LOS at the following locations:

- Broadway and Civic Dr (PM)
- Broadway and Mt Diablo Blvd (PM)
- California and Mt Diablo Blvds (PM)
- Main St and Mt Diablo Blvd (PM)
- California Blvd and Civic Drive (PM)
- Oak Grove Road and Mitchell Drive/Peachwillow Lane (PM)
- Olympic Boulevard and NB I-680 On/Off ramps (AM and PM)

(significant and unavoidable)

Impact TRAF-5: The land use development proposed in General Plan 2025 would contribute to the degradation of the LOS at the following locations:

- Broadway and Civic Dr (PM)
- Broadway and Mt Diablo Blvd (PM)
- California and Mt Diablo Blvds (PM)
- Main St and Mt Diablo Blvd (PM)
- California and Civic Dr (PM)

(less than significant)

These impacts were addressed on Draft EIR pages 128 through 130 (freeway operations, roadway level of service (LOS), delay index, intersection level of service, intersection level of service). All of the impacts identified for traffic could be affected by CAP Municipal Transportation (MT) Goals 1 and 3 and associated measures.

PROPOSED CAP

NEW OR INCREASED SEVERITY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Overall, the proposed project would not result in new or increased severity of significant transportation impacts beyond what was addressed in the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042). There would be no further degradation of levels of service at roadway segments and intersections analyzed under the General Plan EIR, and no cumulative traffic impacts would occur. Any potential transportation impacts which may occur would be a result of CAP Goals MT 1 and MT 3 as well as their associated measures. A further analysis is provided below.

Goal MT 1 Increase the number of fuel-efficient vehicles in the City's fleet.

Measure MT 1.1	Purchase of Alternative Fuel/Fuel-Efficient Vehicles: Continue to require the purchase of alternative fuel and/or fuel-efficient vehicles.
Goal MT 3	Provide alternative transportation options for all City employees.
Measure MT 3.1	Municipal Commuter Programs: Continue to implement incentive programs to reduce municipal employee commute (e.g., parking cash-out, telecommute, bike checkout).
Measure MT 3.2	Municipal Bicycle Program: Provide bicycles for daily trips for City employees.

As described under Impacts TRAF-1, TRAF-2, TRAF-3, TRAF-4, and TRAF-5 in Chapter 4.4 (Transportation) of the Draft EIR, the General Plan would result in increased traffic volumes, which would affect freeway speeds and cause delays along routes of regional significance and declines in LOS. The proposed CAP Goal MT 1 and associated Measure MT 1.1 would not result in any change to existing traffic volumes resulting from an expansion of the City fleet. Rather, these requirements of the CAP would replace traditional vehicles with alternative fuel vehicles. When appropriate alternative vehicle models are available to purchase, they would be purchased instead of standard vehicles to upgrade the City's aging fleet. As CAP Goal MT 1 and the associated measure would not result in increased traffic loads, the severity of significant transportation impacts would not be changed over that described in the General Plan EIR.

Additionally, the proposed CAP Goal MT 3 and associated Measures MT 3.1 and MT 3.2 would reduce the overall traffic load and help to reduce municipal contributions to these impacts, resulting in a beneficial impact to overall traffic conditions throughout the Planning Area. CAP Goal MT 3 and associated Measures MT 3.1 and MT 3.2 would help reduce municipal greenhouse gases (GHG) by taking cars off the road through reducing municipal employee commuting by discouraging single-occupancy vehicle trips among municipal employees. CAP incentives to reduce municipal employee single-occupancy vehicle trips would not result in new significant impacts, nor would they result in a substantial increased severity of the conclusion for Impacts TRAF-1, TRAF-2, TRAF-3, TRAF-4, and TRAF-5 that would trigger a significant impact.

As identified in the Draft EIR, the General Plan includes policies to address increases in congestion on regional transportation facilities and expansion and improvement of regional trail facilities (pages 5-1 through 5-3); promote maximum operational capacity and efficiency on arterials and collectors (pages 5-10 and 5-11); provide bicycle travel throughout the community (page 5-12); provide an environment conducive to walking (page 5-14); increase transit ridership (pages 5-16 and 5-17); provide transportation demand management (page 5-19 and 5-20); promote a pedestrian-friendly environment in the downtown (pages 5-20 and 5-21); link bikeways through downtown (page 5-21); and provide a shuttle to downtown (page 5-21). However, it should be noted that while there are no physical improvements proposed as part of the CAP, all future development projects that would implement the CAP would be subject to applicable City regulations and requirements pertaining to transportation, as well as further CEQA analysis of project-specific impacts. Therefore, as the CAP would not result in increased traffic loads, the severity of significant transportation impacts would not be changed over that described in the General Plan EIR.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Substantial Changes in the Circumstances or New Information Associated with the City and Its Planning Area

There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standards for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The environmental effects and transportation impacts of the Walnut Creek General Plan were evaluated in the General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 128 through 130). No changes in land use patterns are proposed in association with the proposed CAP. The end result of Goal MT-1 and associated measures would be to reduce the generation of GHGs by increasing the number of fuel-efficient vehicles for the City fleet. Goal MT-3 and associated measures would also reduce the number of cars on the road by offering alternatives to single-occupancy car trips for municipal employees. The CAP would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.5 INFRASTRUCTURE

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

- Impact 1:** Solid Waste and Recycling Impacts (no impact)
- Impact 2:** Water Supply and Service (no impact)
- Impact 3:** Wastewater Treatment and Conveyance Impacts (less than significant)

These impacts were addressed on Draft EIR pages 132 through 133 (solid waste and recycling), page 137 (water supply and service), and pages 140 through 141 (wastewater infrastructure). Impacts identified for solid waste and recycling could be affected by CAP Municipal Waste Reduction (MWR) Goal MWR 1, associated Measure MWR 1.1, Goal MWR 2, Measure MWR 2.1, Waste Reduction (WR) Goal WR 1, and Measure WR 1.1. Impacts identified for water supply and service could be affected by CAP Building Goal B 2, Measure B 2.2, Goal B 3, Measure B 3.6, Measure B 4.2, Energy Use (EU) Measure EU 3.2, Goal EU 4, associated Measure EU 4.1, and Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Measure EPP 2.2. None of the wastewater treatment and conveyance impacts identified in the Draft EIR would be affected by the CAP, as the CAP contains no wastewater-related policy provisions.

PROPOSED CAP

NEW OR INCREASED SEVERITY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Overall, the proposed project would not result in solid waste and recycling, water supply, or wastewater infrastructure impacts that were not addressed in the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042). There would be no provisions implemented under the CAP that would result in population growth, and thus these services would not be affected as they are impacted proportionate to the population using them. Likewise, as the CAP would not change development patterns, no cumulative impacts would occur. Any change to impacts identified for solid waste and recycling that could possibly occur would be a result of CAP Municipal Waste Reduction Goal MWR 1, associated Measure MWR 1.1, Goal MWR 2, Measure MWR 2.1, Waste Reduction Goal WR 1, and Measure WR 1.1. Likewise, impacts identified for water supply and service could potentially be affected by CAP Building Goal B 2, Measure B 2.2, Goal B 3, Measure B 3.6, Measure B 4.2, Energy Use Measure EU 3.2, Goal EU 4,

associated Measure EU 4.1, and Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Measure EPP 2.2. These goals and measures are listed below.

The following goals and measures of the CAP could potentially affect impacts identified in the General Plan EIR as they concern solid waste and recycling:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Goal MWR 1 | Implement waste reduction practices in all City facilities. |
| Measure MWR 1.1 | Waste Prevention: Require waste prevention in day-to-day operations (e.g., two-sided copying, reduced paper requirements) in all City facilities. |
| Goal MWR 2 | Encourage recycling of used materials whenever feasible at City facilities. |
| Measure MWR 2.1 | Expand Recycling Programs: Expand City Hall, Police Station, and City parks recycling programs into all City facilities. |
| Goal WR 1 | Implement a zero waste policy to reduce waste sent to the landfill. |
| Measure WR 1.1 | Zero Waste: Reduce landfill waste and increase promotion of recycling and composting through an expanded public education campaign, community-wide incentives, and continued partnership with the Bay Area's Green Business Program. |

As described in Chapter 4.5 (Infrastructure) of the Draft EIR, the General Plan would not result in impacts to solid waste or recycling. At General Plan buildout, the population would annually generate solid waste equivalent to less than 1 percent of the landfill's remaining capacity, which would be able to sufficiently serve population growth in Walnut Creek well beyond the next 20 years. The proposed CAP goals and measures listed above would further assist in reducing solid waste demand in the city. Therefore, the CAP would not result in new solid waste impacts that were not addressed in the General Plan EIR, nor would any previously identified impacts be more severe.

The following goals and measures of the CAP could potentially affect impacts identified in the General Plan EIR as they concern water supply and service:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Goal B 2 | Conduct efficiency audits and implement energy/water efficiency retrofits to existing City facilities. |
| Measure B 2.1 | Water-Conserving Equipment in Municipal Facilities: Install water-conserving equipment (e.g., faucets, high-efficiency toilets, and, if applicable, showerheads) in all City facilities. |
| Goal B 3 | Establish energy and water management and operations policies and practices for City facilities. |
| Measure B 3.6 | Expand Tree Cover at Municipal Facilities: Reduce energy use by planting trees to shade City facilities where feasible. |
| Measure B 4.2 | Solar Water Heating: Install solar water heating at/on appropriate City facilities. |

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

- Measure EU 3.2 Urban Forestry: Increase tree cover throughout the city, with special emphasis on shading east and west walls of structures.
- Goal EU 4 Reduce energy use through increased water conservation.
- Measure EU 4.1 Water Conservation: Work with EBMUD and CCWD to ensure that the Walnut Creek community achieves regional and statewide water reduction targets, including a 20% reduction as established by the State's 20X2020 plan.
- Measure EPP 2.2 Urban Agriculture: Increase and encourage urban agriculture through incentives and streamlined application procedures.

As described in Chapter 4.5 (Infrastructure) of the Draft EIR, the General Plan would not result in impacts to water supply and service. CAP Measure B 3.6, Measure EU 3.2, and Measure EPP 2.2 (above) could increase water demand due to the increases in landscaped areas in the city. However, the General Plan encourages water conservation and thus reduces the potential impact of increased water demand associated with the development of CAP provisions. General Plan Built Environment Element Goal 28 requires the City to promote water conservation. Through General Plan Policy 28.1, the City implements water conservation measures in City facilities and operations. General Plan Actions 28.1.1 and 28.2.1 encourage water conservation and recycling. These actions also direct the City to explore ways to reduce the amount of wastewater generated, work with water agencies to promote water conservation efforts, encourage use of the City's water conservation guidelines, and follow existing standards and guidelines for water-conserving landscaping.

In addition, the CAP provisions listed above would further assist in reducing water demand throughout the city. CAP Goal B 2 and associated measure B 2.2 as well as Measure B 4.2, Goal EU 4, and Measure EU 4.1 would not increase water demand and would achieve water demand reductions. Therefore, these CAP provisions would not result in new or increased severity of significant water supply and service impacts.

It should also be noted that while there are no physical improvements or growth-inducing provisions proposed as part of the CAP, all future development projects that would implement the CAP would be subject to applicable City regulations and requirements pertaining to wastewater infrastructure, as well as further CEQA analysis of project-specific impacts.

Substantial Changes in the Circumstances or New Information Associated with the City and Its Planning Area

There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standards for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The environmental effects of infrastructure service-related impacts of the Walnut Creek General Plan were evaluated in the General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 132 through 133, page 137, and pages 140 through 141). No changes in land use patterns are proposed in association with the proposed CAP. Provisions implemented under the CAP would not result in population growth and thus additional demand on solid waste, water supply, and/or wastewater infrastructure. The CAP would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.6 VISUAL QUALITY

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

- Impact 1:** Scenic Views and Vistas (less than significant)
- Impact 2:** Scenic Corridors (less than significant)
- Impact 3:** Scenic Resources (less than significant)
- Impact 4:** Overall Visual Quality (less than significant)
- Impact 5:** Visual Character of Change Areas (beneficial)
- Impact 6:** Light and Glare (less than significant)

These impacts were addressed on Draft EIR pages 150 through 154 (scenic views and vistas, scenic corridors, scenic resources, overall visual quality, visual character of change area, light and glare). Impacts identified for visual quality could be tied to CAP Building (B) Measure B 2.3, Measure B 3.6, Measure B 4.1, Energy Use (EU) Goal EU 2 and associated Measure EU 2.1, Measure EU 3.1, and Measure EU 3.2.

PROPOSED CAP

NEW OR INCREASED SEVERITY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Overall, the proposed project would not result in new visual quality impacts that were not addressed in the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042). There would be no provisions implemented under the CAP that would result in visual quality impacts, and no cumulative impacts would occur. All visual quality impacts could be affected by CAP Measure B 2.3, Measure B 3.6, Measure B 4.1, Goal EU 2 and associated Measure EU 2.1, Measure EU 3.1, and Measure EU 3.2. A further analysis is provided below.

- Measure B 2.2 Reflective Roofing on City Facilities: Continue to install reflective roofing on select City facilities to reduce building energy (heating/cooling) consumption.
- Measure B 3.6 Expand Tree Cover at Municipal Facilities: Reduce energy use by planting trees to shade City facilities where feasible.
- Measure B 4.1 Solar Electric Arrays: Conduct a solar feasibility study and install solar electric (PV) arrays at/on appropriate City facilities, and identify additional opportunities for increasing renewable energy systems, including wind energy generation.
- Goal EU 2 Promote and support renewable energy generation and use.
- Measure EU 2.1 Renewable Energy Strategy: Develop a renewable energy strategy that encourages residential solar energy systems through streamlined permit procedures, adoption of incentives, fee waivers, and potential for a

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

municipal finance district program that provides a low-risk option for property owners to invest in on-site renewable energy installations.

Measure EU 3.1 Green Building Ordinance: Adopt CALGreen Tier 1 by 2014 to exceed Title 24 energy efficiency standards by 15%, and adopt CALGreen Tier 2 by 2017 to exceed Title 24 energy efficiency standards by 30%.

Measure EU 3.2 Urban Forestry: Increase tree cover throughout the city, with special emphasis on shading east and west walls of structures.

As described in Chapter 4.6 (Visual Quality) of the Draft EIR, the General Plan would allow development to occur in both vacant and underutilized portions of the city. The introduction or expansion of urban uses into these areas has the potential to interrupt views of natural features, open space, the hillsides, Mount Diablo, and other visual resources, reducing the aesthetic value of these resources. Additionally, new development under the General Plan could increase the amount of light and glare in the community.

The General Plan contains policies addressing aesthetics and visual quality. Most of the policies related to aesthetics and visual quality are contained in the Urban Design section of the Built Environment Element. Additionally, the Quality of Life Element contains policies that speak directly to the visual character of the city. Chapter 3 (Natural Environment and Public Spaces) addresses parks, plazas, and natural areas, all of which play a role in the overall aesthetic character of Walnut Creek.

CAP Measure B 2.3, Measure B 4.1, Goal EU 2 and associated Measure EU 2.1, and Measure EU 3.1 could involve installation of solar and photovoltaic panels and related facilities, wind generators, and other renewable energy facilities that have the potential to impact scenic vistas and resources due to their heightened visibility. However, General Plan Built Environment Element Policy 18.1 and Actions 18.1.1, 18.1.2, and 18.1.3 ensure that development in Walnut Creek preserves the integrity of views from public view corridors and of open space land. The General Plan policy provisions impose protective measures, including guidelines to preserve and enhance notable public view corridors, and the retention and expansion of the public visual buffers between developed areas. Additional measures that would protect views and vistas are imposed through Built Environment Element Policies 18.4 and 18.5 and Actions 18.4.1, 18.4.2, and 18.5.1 through 18.5.5. These measures require underground utility lines, electrical transformers, and similar utility structures along identified corridors and in other strategic areas. Through Built Environment Element Policy 13.1, the City requires new development to use the City's Design Review Guidelines. These General Plan policies and actions would be enforced for any facilities installed pursuant to the CAP as well, ensuring that the impact identified in the EIR would not change. As such, no new visual impacts would occur with adoption of the CAP, nor would any previously identified impact be more severe than originally documented.

It should also be noted that while there are no physical improvements proposed as part of the CAP, all future development projects that would implement the CAP would be subject to applicable City regulations and requirements, as well as further CEQA analysis of project-specific impacts. Therefore, the CAP would not result in new visual impacts that were not addressed in the General Plan EIR. Furthermore, Measure B 3.6 and Measure EU 3.2 would expand the tree cover in the city, resulting in a beneficial impact.

Substantial Changes in the Circumstances or New Information Associated with the City and Its Planning Area

There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standards for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. Environmental effects associated with visual impacts of the Walnut Creek General Plan were evaluated in the General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 150 through 154). No changes in land use patterns are proposed in association with the proposed CAP. The CAP would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

Impact 1: Archaeological and Paleontological Resources (less than significant)

Impact 2: Historical Resources (beneficial)

These less than significant impacts were addressed on Draft EIR pages 167 through 168 (archaeological and paleontological resources, historic resources). Impacts identified for archaeological, paleontological, or historic resources could be affected by CAP Measure B 2.3, Measure B 4.1, and Measure EU 2.1, as discussed below.

PROPOSED CAP

NEW OR INCREASED SEVERITY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Overall, the proposed project would not result in cultural resource impacts that were not addressed in the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042). There would be no provisions implemented under the CAP that would result in archaeological, paleontological, or historic resource impacts, and no cumulative impacts would occur. Any potential cultural resource impacts which could be affected would be as a result of CAP Measure B 2.3, Measure B 4.1, and Measure EU 2.1. A further analysis is provided below.

- Measure B 2.2 Reflective Roofing on City Facilities: Continue to install reflective roofing on select City facilities to reduce building energy (heating/cooling) consumption.
- Measure B 4.1 Solar Electric Arrays: Conduct a solar feasibility study and install solar electric (PV) arrays at/on appropriate City facilities, and identify additional opportunities for increasing renewable energy systems, including wind energy generation.
- Measure EU 2.1 Renewable Energy Strategy: Develop a renewable energy strategy that encourages residential solar energy systems through streamlined permit procedures, adoption of incentives, fee waivers, and potential for a municipal finance district program that provides a low-risk option for property owners to invest in on-site renewable energy installations.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Implementation of CAP Measure B 2.3, Measure B 4.1, and Measure EU 2.1 has the potential to impact historical buildings if the installation of reflective roofing and/or solar facilities were proposed for a building that is or may be considered historic. As described under Chapter 4.7 (Cultural Resources) of the Draft EIR, Walnut Creek has numerous buildings, sites, and landmarks that are considered potentially historic. Policies and actions in the General Plan include direction to the City to foster the preservation, restoration, and compatible reuse of architecturally and historically significant structures and sites (Built Environment Element Policy 16.1). Actions require the City to develop an inventory of historically significant properties (Built Environment Element Action 16.1.1) and develop a Historic Preservation Plan and supporting ordinances (Built Environment Element Action 16.1.2). In addition, historic landmarks would be protected through Built Environment Element Action 16.2.1, which calls for the City to develop an inventory of city landmarks and focal points. As such, while the proposed CAP would call for the installation of reflective roofing and solar facilities, the impact of these facilities would be required to meet General Plan requirements just like any other development in the city, and no increase in the severity of any previously identified impact would occur, nor would any new impacts related to cultural resources occur.

It should also be noted that while there are no physical improvements proposed as part of the CAP, all future development projects that would implement the CAP would be subject to applicable City regulations and requirements pertaining to the protection of cultural resources, as well as further CEQA analysis of project-specific impacts. Therefore, the CAP would not result in new impacts that were not addressed in the General Plan EIR.

Substantial Changes in the Circumstances or New Information Associated with the City and Its Planning Area

There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standards for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The environmental effects of cultural resource impacts of the Walnut Creek General Plan were evaluated in the General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 167 through 168). No changes in land use patterns are proposed in association with the proposed CAP. The CAP would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.8 GEOLOGY AND SEISMIC HAZARDS

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

- Impact 1:** Geology and Seismic Hazards (less than significant)
- Impact 2:** Ground Shaking (less than significant)
- Impact 3:** Liquefaction (less than significant)
- Impact 4:** Ground Rupture (less than significant)
- Impact 5:** Landslides and Ground Failure (less than significant)
- Impact 6:** Topsoil Loss (less than significant)
- Impact 7:** Expansive Soils (less than significant)

These less than significant impacts were addressed on Draft EIR pages 179 through 180 (geology and seismic hazards, ground shaking, liquefaction, ground rupture, landslides and ground failure, topsoil loss, expansive soils). None of the geology and seismic hazard-related impacts identified in the Draft EIR could be affected by the CAP, as the CAP contains no policy provisions that would increase the chance of exposure to these hazards, as discussed below.

PROPOSED CAP

NEW OR INCREASED SEVERITY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed project would not result in geology and seismic hazard-related impacts that were not addressed in the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042). Adverse effects related to geologic conditions resulting from implementation of the General Plan could be mitigated to below a level of significance as determined by the General Plan EIR. The CAP does not result in any new development potential or construction of facilities that would be impacted by these conditions beyond what the General Plan EIR considered. Implementation of policies and measures under the CAP would be subject to all City development standards regarding seismic and geologic stability. It should also be noted that while there are no physical improvements or growth-inducing provisions proposed as part of the CAP, all future development projects that would implement the CAP would be subject to applicable City regulations and requirements pertaining to geologic and seismic hazards, as well as further CEQA analysis of project-specific impacts. Therefore, the CAP would not result in new impacts that were not addressed in the General Plan EIR, nor would any previously identified impact be more significant than originally described.

Substantial Changes in the Circumstances or New Information Associated with the City and Its Planning Area

There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standards for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The environmental effects of geology and seismic hazard-related impacts of the Walnut Creek General Plan were evaluated in the General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 179 through 180). No changes in land use patterns are proposed in association with the proposed CAP. Provisions implemented under the CAP would not result in population growth or additional human exposure to existing geologic or seismic hazard impacts. The CAP would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.9 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

- Impact 1:** Transportation of Hazardous Materials (less than significant)
- Impact 2:** Schools and Sensitive Receptors (no impact)
- Impact 3:** Hazardous Material Sites (no impact)
- Impact 4:** Airports (no impact)

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Impact 5: Emergency Response and Evacuation Plans (no impact)

These impacts were addressed on Draft EIR pages 186 through 187 (transportation of hazardous materials, schools and sensitive receptors, hazardous material sites, airports, emergency response and evacuation plans). Impacts identified for the transportation of hazardous materials, schools and sensitive receptors, and response and evacuation plans could be affected by CAP Measure B 2.3, Measure B 4.1, Goal EU 2, and Measure EU 2.1. The CAP does not contain any policy provisions that would increase the chance of exposure to hazards from hazardous material sites and airports.

PROPOSED CAP

NEW OR INCREASED SEVERITY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Overall, the proposed project would not result in hazard-related impacts that were not addressed in the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042). There would be no provisions implemented under the CAP that would result in hazards and/or hazardous material-related impacts, and no cumulative impacts would occur. Any impacts pertinent to potential transportation of hazardous materials, schools and sensitive receptors, and emergency response and evacuation plans that may occur would be as a result of CAP Measure B 2.3, Measure B 4.1, Goal EU 2, and Measure EU 2.1.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Measure B 2.2 | Reflective Roofing on City Facilities: Continue to install reflective roofing on select City facilities to reduce building energy (heating/cooling) consumption. |
| Measure B 4.1 | Solar Electric Arrays: Conduct a solar feasibility study and install solar electric (PV) arrays at/on appropriate City facilities, and identify additional opportunities for increasing renewable energy systems, including wind energy generation. |
| Goal EU 2 | Promote and support renewable energy generation and use. |
| Measure EU 2.1 | Renewable Energy Strategy: Develop a renewable energy strategy that encourages residential solar energy systems through streamlined permit procedures, adoption of incentives, fee waivers, and potential for a municipal finance district program that provides a low-risk option for property owners to invest in on-site renewable energy installations. |

Implementation of CAP Measure B 2.3, Measure B 4.1, Goal EU 2, and Measure EU 2.1 could result in the accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment and/or exposure of the public to hazardous materials via reasonably foreseeable upset conditions, primarily during construction. However, compliance with existing federal, state, and local regulations regarding the storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials as well as future site-specific environmental review would ensure a reasonable level of safety for construction workers and users of future development through review and mitigation of site-specific health hazards associated with proposed development. Furthermore, as described under Chapter 4.9 (Hazardous Materials) of the Draft EIR, the Safety and Noise Element of the General Plan includes Policy 3.4, promoting the safe transport of hazardous materials, including potentially hazardous construction materials, through the city and directing carriers away from populated and sensitive populations. As the proposed CAP would not modify or eliminate any existing federal,

state, or local regulation or policy regarding the storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials, the CAP would not result in any new hazards or hazardous materials impacts, nor would any previously identified impacts be more severe than originally identified.

It should also be noted that while there are no physical improvements proposed as part of the CAP, all future development projects that would implement the CAP would be subject to applicable City regulations and requirements pertaining to potential hazards and hazardous materials, as well as further CEQA analysis of project-specific impacts. Therefore, the CAP would not result in new impacts that were not addressed in the General Plan EIR.

Substantial Changes in the Circumstances or New Information Associated with the City and Its Planning Area

There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standards for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The environmental effects related to hazard impacts of the Walnut Creek General Plan were evaluated in the General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 186 through 187). No changes in land use patterns are proposed in association with the proposed CAP. The CAP would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

- Impact 1:** Water Quality (less than significant)
- Impact 2:** Groundwater (less than significant)
- Impact 3:** Drainage Patterns and Stream Alignments (less than significant)
- Impact 4:** Stormwater Drainage (less than significant)
- Impact 5:** Flooding (less than significant)
- Impact 6:** Seiche, Tsunami, Mudflow (no impact)
- Impact 7:** Wetlands (less than significant)

These less than significant impacts were addressed on Draft EIR pages 195 through 197 (water quality, groundwater, drainage patterns and stream alignments, stormwater drainage, flooding, seiche, tsunami, mudflow, wetlands). None of the hydrology or water quality-related impacts identified in the Draft EIR would be affected by the CAP, as the CAP contains no policy provisions that would affect these resources, as discussed below.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

PROPOSED CAP

NEW OR INCREASED SEVERITY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed project would not result in hydrology and water quality impacts that were not addressed in the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042). As the CAP would not change the land use designations of the General Plan or induce any additional growth beyond that expected from the General Plan, there would be no provisions implemented under the CAP that would result in any changes to hydrology-related impacts identified in the General Plan. Likewise, as no additional growth would occur, no cumulative impacts would be expected. Just as with other aspects of the General Plan, implementation of policies and measures under the CAP would be subject to all of the City development standards regarding hydrology and water quality. Adverse effects related to the placement of structures within a 100-year flood hazard area or related to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow were addressed in the General Plan EIR. The CAP does not result in any new development potential or construction of facilities that would trigger additional seiche, tsunami, or mudflow hazards beyond what the General Plan EIR considered. As such, the CAP would not result in any new hydrological impacts, nor would it cause any previously identified impact to be more severe than originally documented.

It should also be noted that while there are no physical improvements or growth-inducing provisions proposed as part of the CAP, all future development projects that would implement the CAP would be subject to applicable City regulations and requirements pertaining to hydrology and water quality, as well as further CEQA analysis of project-specific impacts. Therefore, the CAP would not result in new impacts that were not addressed in the General Plan EIR.

Substantial Changes in the Circumstances or New Information Associated with the City and Its Planning Area

There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standards for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The environmental effects related to hydrology and water quality impacts of the Walnut Creek General Plan were evaluated in the General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 195 through 197). No changes in land use patterns are proposed in association with the proposed CAP. The CAP would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.11 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

- Impact 1:** Special-Status Species (less than significant)
- Impact 2:** Riparian Habitat and Wetlands (less than significant)
- Impact 3:** Movement Corridors (less than significant)
- Impact 4:** Trees and Oak Woodlands (less than significant)

These less than significant impacts were addressed on Draft EIR pages 217 through 219 (special-status species, riparian habitat and wetlands, movement corridors, trees and oak woodlands). Impacts identified for biological resources could be affected by CAP Measure B 3.6, Measure B 4.1, Goal EU 2, and Measure EU 3.2, as discussed below.

PROPOSED CAP

NEW OR INCREASED SEVERITY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Overall, the proposed project would not result in biological resource impacts that were not addressed in the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042). Any potential biological-related impacts that may occur would be a result of CAP Measure B 3.6, Measure B 4.1, Goal EU 2, and Measure EU 3.2. A further analysis is provided below.

Measure B 3.6 Expand Tree Cover at Municipal Facilities: Reduce energy use by planting trees to shade City facilities where feasible.

Measure B 4.1 Solar Electric Arrays: Conduct a solar feasibility study and install solar electric (PV) arrays at/on appropriate City facilities, and identify additional opportunities for increasing renewable energy systems, including wind energy generation.

Goal EU 2 Promote and support renewable energy generation and use.

Measure EU 3.2 Urban Forestry: Increase tree cover throughout the city, with special emphasis on shading east and west walls of structures.

Implementation of these CAP provisions could involve installation of wind generators and other renewable energy facilities that have the potential to impact sensitive and special-status species during construction or operation. Wildlife may be potentially affected through electrocution from transmission lines and the presence of or collision with wind turbines. In some instances, turbines, transmission lines, and other facility structures may interfere with behavioral activities, including migratory movements, and may provide additional perch sites for raptors, thereby increasing predatory levels on other wildlife. All future development projects that would implement the CAP, including the installation of wind generators and other renewable energy projects, would be subject to applicable City regulations and requirements pertaining to biological resources, as well as further CEQA analysis of project-specific impacts. For instance, the use of wind energy generators in the city is subject to Title 10 of the City Municipal Code, which states that the use of wind-powered electrical generation devices is subject to discretionary action by the City. As these potential impacts are addressed and minimized by existing features of the General Plan and Municipal Code, the CAP would not result in new impacts that were not addressed in the General Plan EIR, nor would any previously identified biological impact be more severe than originally described.

Substantial Changes in the Circumstances or New Information Associated with the City and Its Planning Area

There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standards for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The environmental effects related to biological resources impacts of the Walnut Creek General Plan were evaluated in the General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 217 through 219). No changes in land use patterns are

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

proposed in association with the proposed CAP. The CAP would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3).

3.12 AIR QUALITY

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

Impact AIR-1: The General Plan is not consistent with the BAAQMD Thresholds of Significance requiring that population not exceed ABAG projections and VMT not increase faster than population due to traffic movements through Walnut Creek. (significant and unavoidable)

Impact AIR-2: Land use maps associated with the General Plan do not propose new sources of odors or toxic air contaminants and would not locate sensitive land uses near sources of odors. However, the General Plan identifies new residential uses within 500 feet of Interstate 680, a source of air toxic contaminants. (less than significant)

Impact AIR-3: Construction associated with development allowed under the General Plan would result in emissions of dust and equipment exhaust, including diesel particulate matter. (less than significant)

Impact AIR-4: Wood smoke from new residential uses allowed under the General Plan could emit significant amounts of PM₁₀, which could worsen an already existing air pollution problem. (less than significant)

These impacts were addressed on Draft EIR pages 240 through 242 (consistency with clean air planning effort, odors/toxics, fugitive dust associated with construction, wood smoke from new residential uses). All of the impacts identified for air quality could be affected by CAP Building (B) Goals B 1, B 2, and B 4 and associated measures, as well as CAP Energy Use (EU) Goals EU 1, EU 2, and EU 3.

PROPOSED CAP

NEW OR INCREASED SEVERITY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Overall, the proposed project would not result in new or increased severity of significant air quality impacts beyond what was addressed in the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042). There would be no further degradation of air quality analyzed under the General Plan EIR, and no cumulative air quality impacts would occur. Any potential air quality impacts that may occur would be a result of CAP Building (B) Goals B 1, B 2, and B 4 and associated measures, as well as CAP Energy Use (EU) Goals EU 1, EU 2, and EU 3. A further analysis is provided below.

Goal B 1 Integrate energy efficiency and other green building practices into new City facilities.

Measure B 1.1 Municipal Green Building Policy: Adopt a green building policy for new construction and major renovations of municipal facilities that exceeds current Title 24 energy standards to facilitate the continued

	implementation of municipal green building and establish the City as a leader in the community.
Measure B 1.2	Municipal Energy Audits and Upgrades: Continue to conduct energy audits of all City facilities, identify opportunities for energy savings, and implement recommended, cost-effective energy efficiency retrofit upgrades, including solar and tankless water heaters, and energy-efficient ventilation and air conditioning.
Goal B 2	Conduct efficiency audits and implement energy/water efficiency retrofits to existing City facilities.
Measure B 2.2	Reflective Roofing on City Facilities: Continue to install reflective roofing on select City facilities to reduce building energy (heating/cooling) consumption.
Goal B 4	Consider clean energy alternatives for City facilities and operations.
Measure B 4.1	Solar Electric Arrays: Conduct a solar feasibility study and install solar electric (PV) arrays at/on appropriate City facilities, and identify additional opportunities for increasing renewable energy systems, including wind energy generation.
Measure B 4.2	Solar Water Heating: Install solar water heating at/on appropriate City facilities.
Goal EU 1	Increase energy efficiency and conservation efforts.
Goal EU 2	Promote and support renewable energy generation and use.
Goal EU 3	Facilitate green building and design.

As described under Impact AIR-1, AIR-2, AIR-3, and AIR-4 in Chapter 4.12 (Air Quality) of the Draft EIR, the General Plan would result in inconsistencies with regional clean air planning efforts. In addition, the General Plan would result in significant impacts associated with the exposure of sensitive receptors to odors and toxic air contaminants, result in the generation of fugitive dust and equipment exhaust, and result in the generation of wood smoke. However, these impacts can be mitigated to a less than significant level.

The CAP goals and associated measures listed above would not contribute to odors and toxic air contaminants or wood smoke, as the CAP contains no policy provisions that could lead to the generation of these types of emissions. However, some CAP measures, such as Measure B 1.1, could involve grading and paving or construction, which would result in criteria air pollutants. Similarly, Measure B 2.1, which proposes the implementation of energy efficiency retrofit upgrades, and/or Measure B 2.3, which proposes the installation of reflective roofing on select City facilities, would involve short-term, temporary construction activities that would result in air pollutant emissions. Although individual improvements may not generate significant short-term emissions, it is possible that several improvements could be under construction simultaneously in the city and would generate cumulative construction emissions that could impact air quality.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The Draft EIR included mitigation to address construction-related air quality impacts (pages 240 and 241). According to the Draft EIR, all construction projects in Walnut Creek are required to implement appropriate mitigation measures from a list of feasible Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) control measures for construction. These same requirements would be placed on implementation of features called for by the CAP as well. The construction necessary to implement some CAP goals and measures would involve the same type of construction activities as traditional development addressed under the General Plan EIR. Furthermore, the proposed CAP would help overall to reduce municipal and community contributions to GHGs throughout the city, which would be beneficial to overall air quality conditions throughout the Planning Area. Considering the existing requirements on future construction imposed by the General Plan as well as the overall air quality benefits of the CAP, no new impacts would result, nor would any previously identified impact be more severe than originally described.

It should be noted that while there are no physical improvements proposed as part of the CAP, all future development projects that would implement the CAP would be subject to applicable City regulations and requirements pertaining to air quality, as well as further CEQA analysis of project-specific impacts.

Substantial Changes in the Circumstances or New Information Associated with the City and Its Planning Area

There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standards for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. Environmental effects and air quality impacts of the Walnut Creek General Plan were evaluated in the General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 240 through 242). No changes in land use patterns are proposed in association with the proposed CAP. The end result of the CAP goal and measures is to increase efficiency and thus reduce GHGs. CAP goals and associated measures would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3). Instead, implementation of these measures would result in a reduction in GHG emissions generated in Walnut Creek, which would be a beneficial impact.

3.13 NOISE

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

- Impact NOI-1:** Vehicular traffic in Walnut Creek will increase on two major roadways as development and population increase within the community. (less than significant)
- Impact NOI-2:** New noise sensitive development is proposed in noisy areas. (less than significant)
- Impact NOI-3:** New residential development proposed adjacent to BART where it is operating at-grade could expose residents to excessive vibration. (less than significant)
- Impact NOI-4:** Construction of new development would temporarily elevate noise levels at adjacent noise sensitive land uses. (less than significant)

These impacts were addressed on Draft EIR pages 263 through 264 (noise from increased traffic on two major roadways, noise-sensitive land uses developed adjacent to noisy areas, excessive vibration exposure to new residential development adjacent to at-grade BART operations, and temporary noise from construction). All of the impacts identified for noise could be affected by CAP Building (B) Goals B 1, B 2, and B 4 and associated measures, as well as CAP Energy Use (EU) Goals EU 1, EU 2, and EU 3, as discussed below.

PROPOSED CAP

NEW OR INCREASED SEVERITY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Overall, the proposed project would not result in new or increased severity of significant noise impacts beyond what was addressed in the City of Walnut Creek General Plan EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2004022042). There would be no further increase in noise levels analyzed under the General Plan EIR, and no cumulative noise impacts would occur. Any potential noise impacts that may be modified by the CAP would likely be a result of CAP Goals B 1, B 2, B 4, EU 1, EU 2, and EU 3. A further analysis is provided below.

Goal B 1	Integrate energy efficiency and other green building practices into new City facilities.
Measure B 1.1	Municipal Green Building Policy: Adopt a green building policy for new construction and major renovations of municipal facilities that exceeds current Title 24 energy standards to facilitate the continued implementation of municipal green building and establish the City as a leader in the community.
Measure B 1.2	Municipal Energy Audits and Upgrades: Continue to conduct energy audits of all City facilities, identify opportunities for energy savings, and implement recommended, cost-effective energy efficiency retrofit upgrades, including solar and tankless water heaters, and energy-efficient ventilation and air conditioning.
Goal B 2	Conduct efficiency audits and implement energy/water efficiency retrofits to existing City facilities.
Measure B 2.2	Reflective Roofing on City Facilities: Continue to install reflective roofing on select City facilities to reduce building energy (heating/cooling) consumption.
Goal B 4	Consider clean energy alternatives for City facilities and operations.
Measure B 4.1	Solar Electric Arrays: Conduct a solar feasibility study and install solar electric (PV) arrays at/on appropriate City facilities, and identify additional opportunities for increasing renewable energy systems, including wind energy generation.
Measure B 4.2	Solar Water Heating: Install solar water heating at/on appropriate City facilities.
Goal EU 1	Increase energy efficiency and conservation efforts.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Goal EU 2 Promote and support renewable energy generation and use.

Goal EU 3 Facilitate green building and design.

As described under Impact NOI-1, NOI-2, NOI-3, and NOI-4 in Chapter 4.13 (Noise) of the Draft EIR, the General Plan would result in significant impacts associated with noise from increased traffic on two major roadways, noise-sensitive land uses developed adjacent to noisy areas, excessive vibration exposure to new residential development adjacent to at-grade BART operations, and temporary noise from construction. However, these impacts were mitigated to a less than significant level.

Some CAP measures, such as Measure B 1.1, could involve grading and paving or construction. Similarly, Measure B 2.1, which proposes the implementation of energy efficiency retrofit upgrades, and/or Measure B 2.3, which proposes the installation of reflective roofing on select City facilities, would involve short-term, temporary construction activities that could result in temporary noise impacts.

The Draft EIR included mitigation to address construction-related noise impacts (pages 263 and 264). The City Municipal Code Title 4, Article 2 addresses excessive, unreasonable, and prolonged noise, including building construction and repair, and provides a list of appropriate construction noise mitigation methods. All construction projects in Walnut Creek are required to implement appropriate mitigation measures from this list in the Municipal Code. The construction necessary to implement CAP goals and measures would involve the same type of construction activities as traditional development addressed under the General Plan EIR. As such, mitigation provided by the General Plan EIR, including implementation of the City Municipal Code, would ensure that these noise impacts would be no greater than what was originally documented for the General Plan. As such, no new impacts would occur as a result of the CAP and no previously identified impacts would be more severe than originally described.

All future development projects that would implement the CAP would be subject to applicable City regulations and requirements pertaining to noise, as well as further CEQA analysis of project-specific impacts.

Substantial Changes in the Circumstances or New Information Associated with the City and Its Planning Area

There are no changed circumstances or new information that meets the standards for requiring further environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. Environmental effects and noise impacts of the Walnut Creek General Plan were evaluated in the General Plan EIR (see Draft EIR pages 263 through 264). No changes in land use patterns are proposed in association with the proposed CAP. The end result of the CAP goal and measures is to reduce GHGs. CAP goals and associated measures would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond what was addressed in the General Plan EIR and would not meet any other standards under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3). Instead, implementation of these measures would result in a reduction in GHG emissions generated in Walnut Creek, which would be a beneficial impact.

IMPACTS NOT IDENTIFIED IN THE WALNUT CREEK GENERAL PLAN EIR

Greenhouse Gases

Absent an adopted regulatory threshold or other regulatory guidance, the City has determined that the City's potential for creating an impact on global climate change should be based on a comparative analysis of the General Plan and CAP against Assembly Bill (AB) 32 targets in the year 2020 and progress toward Executive Order (EO) S-3-05 targets in the year 2030. In order for California to meet the goals of AB 32 and EO S-3-05, the City of Walnut Creek will need to reduce GHG emissions by 15 percent below current (2005) levels by 2020. Community-wide activities in Walnut Creek, including municipal operations, emitted approximately 643,596 metric tons of CO₂e in 2005. The goals and measures presented in the CAP have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 104,747 metric tons of CO₂e compared with business as usual projections by 2020. With the incorporation of State-mandated initiatives, emissions in Walnut Creek would be reduced by another 129,901 metric tons CO₂e, for a total reduction of 15.4 percent from the 2005 baseline by 2020.

The City of Walnut Creek is committed to reducing GHG emissions and has developed strategies to meet its reduction targets. The City has set emission reduction targets for 2020 and 2030 that would result in a significant reduction from business-as-usual (unmitigated) emissions growth, consistent with the direction of AB 32 and EO S-03-05. The strategies identified in the City's CAP combined with emissions reductions from state programs would achieve a carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) reduction of 15.4 percent by 2020 and 34.73 percent by 2030 compared with 2005 conditions. Therefore, the City of Walnut Creek would achieve (and exceed) the GHG targets of 15 percent below current (2005) levels by 2020. As such, a less than significant impact would occur related to GHG emissions as a result of implementation of the CAP, in combination with the General Plan and existing City efforts toward reducing GHG emissions citywide.

REFERENCES

City of Walnut Creek. 2005. *Draft Environmental Impact Report General Plan 2025*.

———. 2006. *General Plan 2025*.

———. 2011. *City of Walnut Creek Municipal Code*.