

Chapter 10

Cumulative Impacts

Introduction

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

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

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

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

The provisions of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15130(b), subdivisions (b)(1) through (b)(3) list the "necessary elements" that define "an adequate discussion of significant cumulative impacts." According to Section 15130 (b)(1) of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, either a list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts or a summary of growth projections in an adopted general plan or related planning document may be used as the basis for the cumulative impacts discussion.

Table 10-1 lists the related projects in the general vicinity of the proposed project. This list was provided by the City of Malibu and includes projects that are proposed, in the planning stage, are under construction, or have recently completed construction. Figure 10-1 shows the general locations of the related projects.

The cumulative impacts for each environmental focus of the project are discussed below.

Consistency with Local and Regional Plans

As described in Chapter 4, the project complies with local plans, land use and zoning designations. It is expected that most related projects would be required to comply with adopted land use plans and zoning requirements as well. It is also anticipated that related projects would generally be consistent with the overall land use policies and goals of the City of Malibu General Plan. No significant cumulative land use impacts would occur as a result of implementation of the project.

Cultural Resources

The geographic scope of the area affected by potential cumulative archaeological impacts is defined by the cultural setting and ethnographic territory of the prehistoric and historic peoples who have occupied this area of southern California. As detailed in Chapter 7, this region of Los Angeles County was part of the territory of the Chumash Native American people. Related projects in the project area and other development in the county could result in the progressive loss of as-yet-unrecorded archaeological resources. This loss, without proper mitigation, would be an adverse cumulative impact.

Construction activities associated with related projects could contribute to the progressive loss of archaeological resources and result in significant cumulative impacts under CEQA. The proposed project also has potential to disturb or destroy archaeological resources that may exist in the proposed project. Thus, the combined effects of the proposed and related projects could result in significant cumulative impacts to archaeological resources. The proposed project includes mitigation that would reduce potential impacts and contributions to cumulative impacts to less-than-significant levels. Similar measures may also be implemented for other related projects that have the potential to affect archaeological resources.

No significant adverse impacts were identified on historical resources, including the Adamson House and its contributing elements; therefore, the proposed project would not add to cumulative impacts caused by other related projects.

Table 10-1. Related Projects and Cumulative Development

ID #	Project	Description
1	Rancho Malibu Hotel	Hotel (146 rooms), Health Club (6,052 sf), Cultural Center (9,000 sf).
2	Pepperdine University Upper Campus	384,800 sf
3	Forge Lodge	28 rooms - bed and breakfast lodge with a dedicated kitchen facility. The lodge will consist of eight, four-unit, two-story buildings designed in a Mediterranean Revival style architecture consistent with the character of the existing Beaurivage Restaurant.
4	Pepperdine Office Development	65,000 sf office
5	Proposed Senior Housing	36 units
6	Single Family Housing Development	8 units
7	Adamson Self-Storage	56,600 sf self-storage
8	Schultz – Office and Retail (Pharmacy)	Office (20,850 sf) and Retail (18,000 sf)
9	Yamaguchi - Office and Retail	Office (67,000 sf) and Retail (42,271 sf)
10	Residential	6 units
11	Office	13,500 sf
12	Malibu Pier - Restaurant/Retail	10,237 sf
13	Windsail	Restaurant (7,275 sf), Community Room (980 sf) and Day Spa (1,300 sf)
14	Office	10,000 sf
15	La Paz Ranch	Commercial development project on 15.28 acres

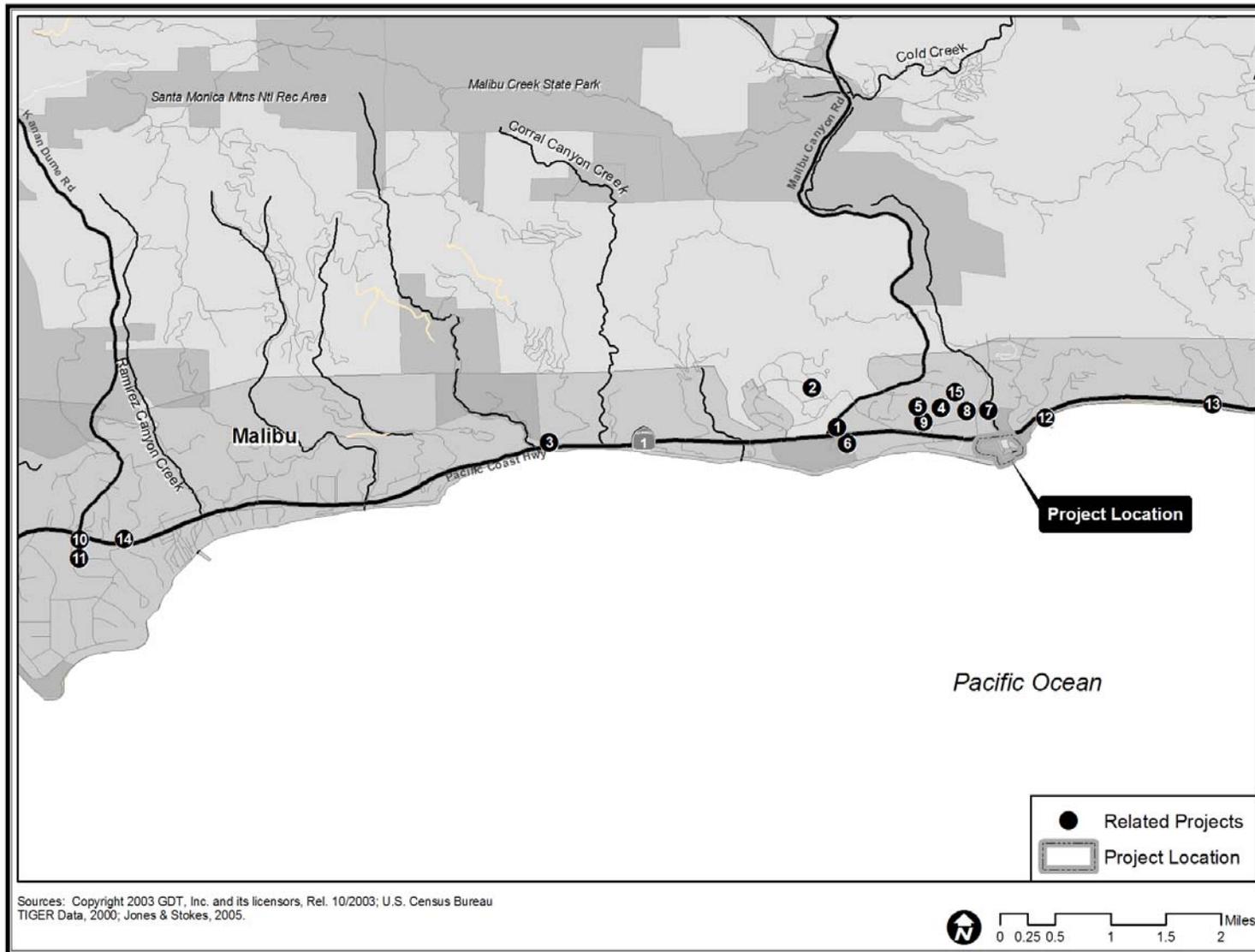
Source: City of Malibu, December 2005.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The primary objective of the proposed project is restoration of habitat and improvement of water quality in Malibu Lagoon. Increased water circulation, reduced and redirected storm water runoff, and restoration of native plant and wildlife habitat from implementation of the proposed project would beneficially impact hydrology and water quality of the lagoon after restoration is complete.

In conjunction with improved treatment and discharge operations at the Tapia Wastewater Treatment Plant and watershed-wide efforts to reduce the nutrient and bacterial load and improve aquatic habitat in the Malibu Creek watershed, it is anticipated that the proposed project would have the potential to significantly improve water quality conditions to a level that would meet TMDL target requirements.

Figure 10-1. Related Projects



Additionally, the Army Corps of Engineers plans to remove Ringe Dam, a project that ultimately would contribute to restoration of flow and water quality conditions in the watershed. The storage capacity of the lagoon would increase after completion of the proposed project, thus removal of the Ringe Dam is not expected to increase the potential for flooding in the vicinity of the lagoon. However, a plug of sediment could be released during dam removal activities. This sediment could transport to and deposit in the lagoon. Consequently, improper handling of sediments during dam removal would threaten the proposed project.

Potential impacts from the dam removal project would be avoided or mitigated through compliance with permit conditions and mitigation measures required as part of environmental impact analysis of the project. These measures would adequately protect against potential impacts to Malibu Lagoon. Overall, the proposed project would contribute to cumulatively beneficial impacts on hydrology and water quality in the watershed and lagoon.

Biological Resources

When analyzing cumulative impacts to wetlands, waters and aquatic species it is important to consider impacts within the watershed in which the project is located, as impacts outside of the watershed will be much less relevant. The analysis of cumulative impacts on sensitive species should take into account the distribution of these species and the distribution of the reproducing population.

Sensitive Habitats

Impacts to sensitive habitats associated with the proposed project include southern willow scrub, atriplex scrub, baccharis scrub, mule fat scrub, Venturan coastal sage scrub, mixed scrub, southern coastal salt marsh, brackish marsh, coastal and valley freshwater marsh, southern sycamore-alder riparian woodland, non-native grassland, mud flat, sand beach/sand bar, and open water.

While recent and foreseeable projects in the Malibu area may result in significant cumulative impacts to sensitive vegetation communities, including vegetation communities located within the project area (i.e., southern willow scrub, mule fat scrub, mixed chaparral etc.), implementation of the proposed project would not contribute to any significant cumulative impact as it will result in long-term benefits to vegetation communities located within the project area. In addition, implementation of the project would result in an increase in native (wetland and upland) vegetation communities and a decrease in disturbed and developed areas.

Sensitive Plants

The proposed project would not result in impacts to sensitive plant species as none were observed during any of the biological surveys. Therefore, the plan would not contribute to any significant cumulative impact to sensitive plant species.

Sensitive Wildlife

Malibu Lagoon supports important populations of several sensitive wildlife species including wandering (salt marsh) skipper, southern steelhead trout, tidewater goby, California brown pelican, western snowy plover, Heermann's gull, elegant tern, and the California least tern. While recent and foreseeable projects in the Malibu area may result in significant cumulative impacts to sensitive wildlife species, including those located within the plan area, implementation of the project would not contribute to any significant cumulative impact as it will result in long-term benefits to sensitive wildlife species and habitat within the plan area.

Construction Effects

The related projects listed in Table 10-1 are in various phases of development. It is possible that construction for one or more of the listed projects would overlap with the construction for the proposed project. As a result, there could be short-term noise, air quality, construction traffic and aesthetic effects. However, given the small scale of construction associated with the proposed project, and the short duration of these impacts, these would not be considered cumulatively significant.