

7.1.3 Relationship of CETAP to Adopted Plans

The Riverside County Integrated Project (RCIP) is a joint undertaking by Riverside County and RCTC. The components of the RCIP include the CETAP corridors (two corridors internal to Riverside County and two inter-county corridors), a new Riverside County General Plan, and a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) for western Riverside County. The purpose of the RCIP is to integrate the processes of planning land uses, transportation improvements, and the preservation of habitat for endangered species. An important objective of the RCIP is to accommodate projected population growth by focusing development within areas that will be readily accessible, that will provide a good quality of life for future residents, and that will minimize environmental and community impacts.

The new Draft General Plan was released for public review in April, 2002. The intent of the General Plan is to effectively manage the overall pattern of development in Riverside County. Detailed Area Plans are included that provide opportunities to enhance community identity within the county. The HCLE Corridor study area is guided by seven Area Plans: the Lake Mathews/Woodcrest Area Plan, the Temescal Canyon Area Plan, the Lakeview/Nuevo Area Plan, the Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan, the Mead Valley Area Plan, the San Jacinto Valley Area Plan, and the Harvest Valley/Winchester Area Plan. One of the objectives of the Area Plans is to direct and focus the projected growth and development into mixed-use “community centers.” Portions of the HCLE Corridor study area are also within the jurisdictions of the Cities of Hemet, San Jacinto, Perris, Riverside, Corona, Lake Elsinore, and Canyon Lake. These cities have adopted General Plans. See Section 3.1 for more information.

The Draft General Plan is the basis for the future land use planning for western Riverside County. The Circulation Element of the Draft General Plan acknowledges the two CETAP corridors as being integrated into the regional circulation system: “The intent of the General Plan Circulation Element is to establish a comprehensive multimodal transportation system that is safe, achievable, efficient, environmentally and financially sound, accessible and coordinated with the Land Use Element. It is important to design and implement a multimodal transportation system that will serve projected future travel demand, minimize congestion achieve the shortest feasible travel times and distances, and address future growth and development in the County.” (Draft General Plan, April, 2002, Chapter 4, page C-5). Policy C 1.5 of the Draft General Plan Circulation Element states: “Evaluate the planned circulation system as needed to enhance the arterial highway network to respond to anticipated growth and mobility needs.”

7.1.4 Potential Growth Impacts

The objective of the RCIP including the new Riverside County General Plan is to accommodate projected population growth by focusing development within areas that will be readily accessible, that will provide a good quality of life for future residents, and that will minimize environmental and community impacts. The new Area Plans identify areas that are able to accommodate growth based on physical and infrastructure constraints and opportunities. Within each Area Plan, community and village centers are identified as areas where development will be focused.

The analysis below addresses the potential of the proposed HCLE Corridor to affect the amount, location and rate of growth in the project study area. The analysis is based on