

4.16.7 Hazardous Waste

There is a direct relationship between increased urbanization and the quantity of hazardous materials used and stored, and potential releases of hazardous materials/waste into the environment. This is because all facets of the urban environment utilize hazardous materials and create hazardous waste, and these items must be transported from the manufacturer to the user to the disposal facility. Planned development in the vicinity of the proposed alternatives has the potential to increase potential impacts from hazardous materials/waste to the study area. Generally, industrial use has the greatest potential for impacts, followed by commercial and residential uses. Therefore, it is likely that future land use development combined with the implementation of any of the proposed alternatives would increase the cumulative hazardous waste impacts within the area of the alternative selected as the preferred alternative. However, as the preferred corridor alternative will be supporting infrastructure to the planned land use development in western Riverside County, and the County General Plan acknowledges a future WT Corridor, additional hazardous waste would potentially be generated along the selected corridor route and would not be cumulatively substantial.

4.16.8 Transportation and Circulation

4.16.8.1 General Plan Land Use

The cumulative study area for the WT Corridor is western Riverside County. At the Tier 1 analysis level, each of the build alternatives of the proposed corridor would improve north-south vehicular movement within the western portion of the County. In order to provide adequate circulation infrastructure for the projected growth and development planned in the County General Plan Land Use Element, the Circulation Element establishes plans for a comprehensive multimodal transportation system that accommodates traffic generated within the County, as well as through traffic from other jurisdictions. The Circulation Plan (General Plan Circulation Element Figure C-1) indicates roadways that are planned to accommodate the land use plan of the General Plan.

The General Plan Circulation Element acknowledges the CETAP planning effort as part of the RCIP process. The Circulation Plan shows alternative locations of potential right-of-way preservation for three transportation corridors, including the Winchester to Temecula, Hemet to Corona/Lake Elsinore, and Moreno Valley to San Bernardino corridors. The Circulation Element states that these corridors are “intended to be major transportation facilities to support mobility and economic development in western Riverside County. The General Plan Circulation Element seeks to preserve the right of way for these facilities so that they can be constructed as some point in the future.These facilities may be constructed in phases based upon transportation demand, available funding, and Caltrans and RCTC policy.” (Circulation Element, page C-21).

Other land use development in western Riverside County as planned by the proposed General Plan will impact the existing circulation system’s capacity and will require additional improvements to accommodate the growth as shown in the Circulation Element. Approval of individual development proposals for residential, commercial, office, or industrial uses, or other uses that would cause additional traffic on the