

# CHAPTER 4

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## Environmental Analysis

### 4.0 Introduction to the Environmental Analysis

This draft program environmental impact report (EIR) evaluates and documents the physical environmental effects that would potentially occur with the implementation of the proposed Housing Element Update (HEU) and Stanford Community Plan (SCP) update (collectively, the “project”) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 21000, et seq., and the Guidelines for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines), California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000, et seq.). Sections 4.1 through 4.17 consider the regulatory background, existing conditions, and environmental impacts associated with implementation of the project, as well as mitigation measures to reduce the impact of project-specific and cumulative environmental impacts, and the level of significance of impacts following mitigation. This EIR is a Program EIR, as provided for in CEQA Guidelines Section 15168. Section 15168(a) of the CEQA Guidelines states that a Program EIR is appropriate for projects which are “... a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related either:

1. Geographically;
2. A logical part in the chain of contemplated actions;
3. In connection with issuance of rules, regulations, plans or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program; or
4. As individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulating authority and having generally similar environmental effects which can be mitigated in similar ways.”

Future discretionary actions that would be facilitated by the HEU’s adoption, particularly those related to the development of housing, would require additional assessment to determine consistency with the analysis provided in this Program EIR. The potential future actions would also be subject to the mitigation measures established in this Program EIR, unless superseded by a subsequent environmental document prepared to analyze environmental impacts not foreseen in this Program EIR.