

## 3.7 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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### 3.7.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes the demographic conditions within the City of Roseville, the 2010 Census Tracts containing and adjacent to the Proposed Action and its alternatives, and evaluates the potential for the Proposed Action and its alternatives to result in disproportionately high and adverse environmental and human health effects on low-income or minority populations.

The primary source of information used in this analysis is the US Census Bureau data from the 2010 Census.

### 3.7.2 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The project site is located in Placer County in the southwestern portion of the City of Roseville within Census Tract 213.22. For the purpose of this analysis, race, ethnicity, poverty status, and income data were obtained for the City, Census Tract 213.22, and the two census tracts immediately adjacent to the project site: Census Tracts 210.35 and 225, to determine if there is a high concentration of a minority or low-income population in the surrounding area. **Figure 3.7-1, Location of Census Tracts**, identifies the location of each census tract.

#### 3.7.2.1 Regional Setting

##### *Population, Race, and Ethnicity*

**Table 3-7-1, Study Area Demographics**, lists the populations of the City and the three-tract study area by race and ethnicity. Based on the 2010 Census data, approximately 25 percent of the City of Roseville population is identified as belonging to a minority group, and the minority populations make up about 31 percent, 28 percent, and 32 percent of the total population in Tracts 213.22, 210.35, and 225, respectively. In the State of California, the minority population constitutes approximately 57 percent of the total population.

##### *Income and Poverty Status*

The US Census determines poverty status based on the thresholds prescribed for federal agencies by Statistical Policy Directive 14, issued by the Office of Management and Budget. These thresholds take into account family size, the age of the individual(s), and income (US Census 2011). **Table 3.7-2, Income and Poverty Status**, shows the percentage of City of Roseville and study area census tract populations below the poverty level. Based on 2006-2010 American Community Survey data, the percentage of individuals considered to be below the poverty level within the study area is equal to or less than the statewide level of 13.7 percent.

**Table 3.7-1  
Study Area Demographics**

Demographic	City of Roseville		Tract 213.22		Tract 210.35		Tract 225	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	118,788	--	8,762	--	7,431	--	3,879	--
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	17,359	14.6	971	11.1	946	12.7	398	10.3
White	84,349	71.0	6,291	71.8	5,582	75.1	2,727	70.3
Black or African American	2,157	1.8	214	2.4	137	1.8	187	4.8
American Indian or Alaska Native	568	0.5	43	0.5	47	0.6	34	0.9
Asian	9,785	8.2	1,445	16.5	957	12.9	581	15.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	294	0.2	33	0.4	16	0.2	21	0.5
Some other Race	244	0.2	283	3.2	290	3.9	129	3.3
Two or more Races	4,032	3.4	453	5.2	402	5.4	200	5.2
<b>Total Minority Population</b>	<b>30,163</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>2,706</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>2,103</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>31.5</b>

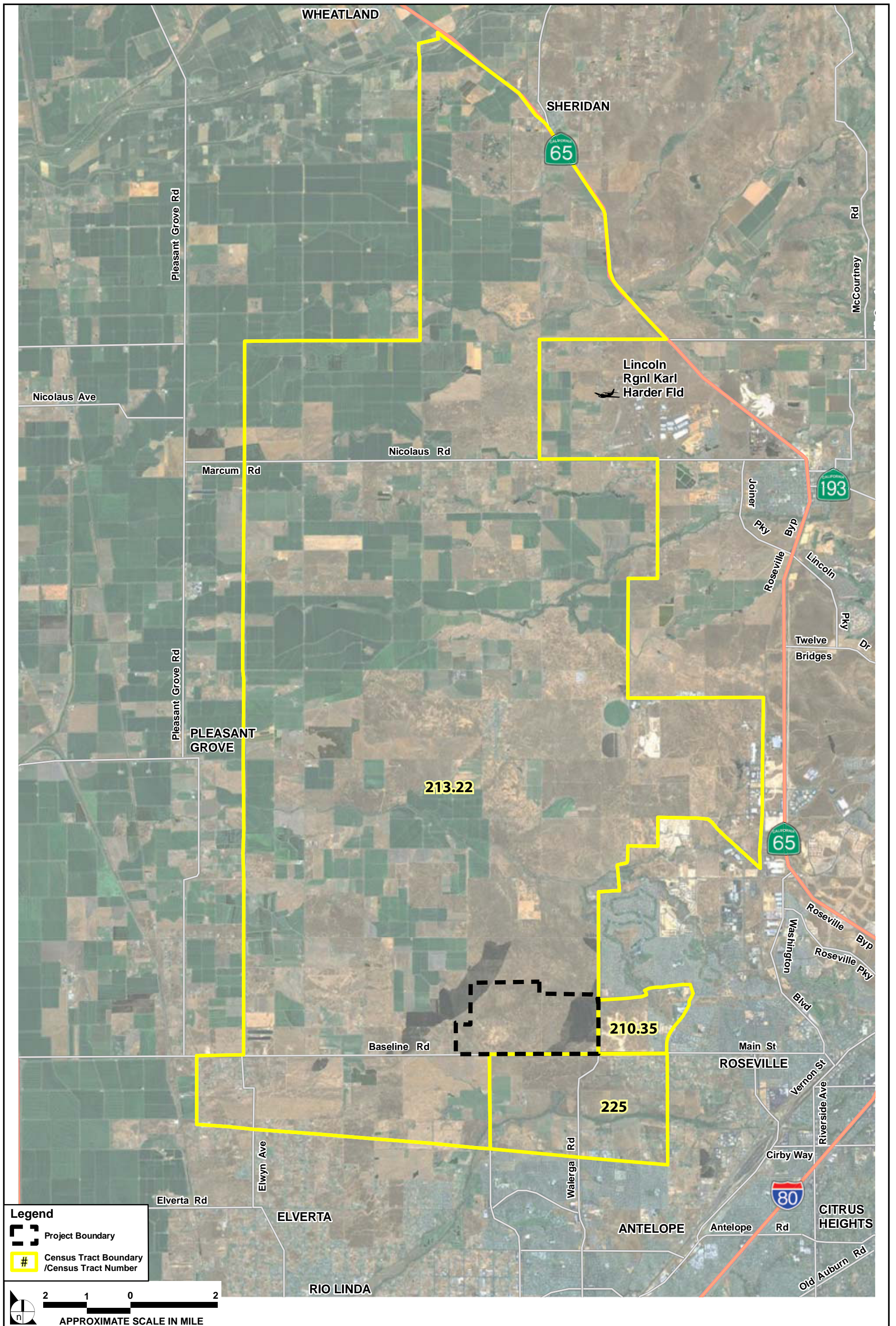
Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census Summary File 1

**Table 3.7-2  
Income and Poverty Status**

Income and Poverty Status	City of Roseville		Tract 213.22		Tract 210.35		Tract 225	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Households	43,774	--	1,970	--	2,455	--	1,256	--
Less than \$10,000	1,649	3.8	91	4.6	83	3.4	0	0.0
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,110	2.5	54	2.7	23	0.9	52	4.1
\$15,000 to \$24,999	3,089	7.1	23	1.2	55	2.2	64	5.1
\$25,000 to \$34,999	3,165	7.2	65	3.3	135	5.5	87	6.9
\$35,000 to \$49,999	5,175	11.8	142	7.2	194	7.9	176	14.0
\$50,000 to \$74,999	7,665	17.5	300	15.2	393	16.0	147	11.7
\$75,000 to \$99,999	6,924	15.8	373	18.9	513	20.9	157	12.5
\$100,000 to \$149,999	8,862	20.2	626	31.8	749	30.5	133	10.6
\$150,000 to \$199,999	3,701	8.5	160	8.1	206	8.4	196	15.6
Greater than \$200,000	2,434	5.6	136	6.9	104	4.2	244	19.4
Median Household Income	75,112	--	96,181	--	93,102	--	95,114	--
Median Family Income	90,098	--	101,157	--	100,474	--	111,923	--
Per Capita Income	34,046	--	33,610	--	33,049	--	39,236	--
Poverty Status – Families	--	<b>4.9</b>	--	<b>2.7</b>	--	<b>0.7</b>	--	<b>1.6</b>
Poverty Status - Individuals	--	<b>7.1</b>	--	<b>5.5</b>	--	<b>4.2</b>	--	<b>5.0</b>

Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey





SOURCE: US Census Bureau, 2010; ESRI Maps and Data, 2012.

FIGURE 3.7-1

Location of Census Tracts



### **3.7.3 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK – APPLICABLE LAWS, REGULATIONS, PLANS, AND POLICIES**

#### **3.7.3.1 Federal Regulations**

##### *Executive Order 12898*

On February 11, 1994, the President issued Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. The order focuses federal attention on the relationship between the environment and human health conditions of minority communities and calls on agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their mission. The Order requires the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and all federal and state agencies receiving federal funds to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. It also requires the agencies to develop strategies to address this problem.

#### **3.7.3.2 State Regulations**

There are no state regulations related to environmental justice that are applicable to the Proposed Action.

#### **3.7.3.3 Local Plans, Policies, and Ordinances**

There are no local plans, policies or ordinances of the City of Roseville or Placer County related to environmental justice.

### **3.7.4 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS AND ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.7.4.1 Significance Thresholds**

NEPA does not specify significance thresholds that may be used to evaluate the effects of a proposed action related to environmental justice. However, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidance requires an evaluation of a proposed action's effect on the human environment, and the USACE must comply with Executive Order 12898. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that the Proposed Action or its alternatives would result in significant effects related to environmental justice if the Proposed Action or an alternative would disproportionately adversely affect an environmental justice (EJ) community through its effects on:

- Environmental conditions such as quality of air, water, and other environmental media; degradation of aesthetics, loss of open space, and nuisance concerns such as odor, noise, and dust;
- Human health such as exposure of EJ populations to pathogens;
- Public welfare in terms of social conditions such as reduced access to certain amenities like hospitals, safe drinking water, public transportation, etc.;
- Public welfare in terms of economic conditions such as changes in employment, income, and the cost of housing, etc.

### 3.7.4.2 Analysis Methodology

Several guidance documents have been prepared by various federal agencies to guide the evaluation of impacts of a proposed action on minority and low-income populations. CEQ guidance “Environmental Justice Under the National Environmental Policy Act” dated December 1997 and the US EPA’s “Toolkit for Assessing Potential Allegations of Environmental Injustice” dated November 2004 were consulted in evaluating the effects of the Proposed Action and its alternatives relative to Executive Order 12898.

The USACE conducted an evaluation of EJ impacts using a two-step process: as a first step, the study area was evaluated to determine whether it contains a concentration of minority and/or low-income populations. Following that evaluation in a second step, the USACE determined whether the Proposed Action and its alternatives would result in the types of effects listed above.

The following criteria were used to determine if any of the three study area census tracts contain a high concentration of a minority or low-income population.

#### *Minority Population*

As defined in Executive Order 12898 and the CEQ guidance, a minority population occurs where one or both of the following conditions are met within a given geographic area:

- The American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, Pacific Islander, Black, or Hispanic population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent, or
- The minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis.

A minority population also exists if more than one minority group is present and the aggregate minority percentage meets one of the above conditions. The selection of the appropriate unit of geographic analysis could be a governing body’s jurisdiction, a neighborhood, census tract, or other similar unit.

Although the Hispanic population cannot be directly aggregated without resulting in double counting because it represents a multiracial group which includes several races, for purposes of this analysis, it was aggregated because the Hispanic population is a designated minority group.

Based on this, as shown in **Table 3.7-1** above, the aggregate minority population is 25 percent of the total population in the City of Roseville, about 31 percent, 28 percent, and 32 percent of the total population in study area Census Tracts 213.22, 210.35, and 225, respectively. The aggregate population percentages for the City or any of the study area Census Tracts do not exceed 50 percent. In addition, the study area minority population percentage is not greater than the minority population percentage in the State of California as a whole which is approximately 57 percent. Therefore, the study area does not contain a high concentration of minority population.

#### *Low-income Population*

Executive Order 12898 does not provide criteria to determine if an affected area consists of a low-income population. For the purpose of this assessment, the CEQ criterion for defining a minority population has been adapted to identify whether or not the population in an affected area constitutes a low-income

population. An affected geographic area is considered to consist of a low-income population (i.e., below the poverty level, for purposes of this analysis) where the percentage of low-income persons:

- is at least 50 percent of the total population, or
- is meaningfully greater than the low-income population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis.

As shown in **Table 3.7-2, Income and Poverty Status**, based on the 2006-2010 American Community Surveys, 7.1 percent of the individuals in the City of Roseville, 5.5 percent of the individuals in Census Tract 213.22, 4.2 percent of the individuals in Tract 210.35, and 5.0 percent of the individuals in Tract 225 are considered below the poverty level. The City and the three study area Census Tracts do not meet either criterion as the percentages of low-income persons are substantially less than 50 percent and are not higher than in the State of California as a whole, which has a poverty level of 13.7 percent of individuals. Therefore the study area does not contain a high concentration of low-income population.

In summary, the study area which comprises the City and adjacent counties does not constitute an “environmental justice (EJ)” community.

### 3.7.5 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

#### Impact EJ-1                    **Disproportionate Adverse Environmental Effects on Minority or Low-income Populations**

**Proposed Action**                    The Proposed Action would not result in disproportionate significant environmental effects on minority or low-income populations. As shown by the data presented above, the project area does not meet the criteria for an EJ community. Furthermore, the Proposed Action involves the development of a mixed use, mixed density community that would be similar to existing urban development to the east and north of the project site. The Proposed Action does not involve any land uses that would produce hazardous emissions or create other conditions that could adversely affect the adjacent residential areas. There would be **no effect**. No mitigation is required.

**No Action Alt.**                    The No Action Alternative would not adversely affect an EJ community. The No Action Alternative would construct a smaller mixed use development on the project site. Based on the significance criteria listed above and for the same reasons presented above for the Proposed Action, there would be **no effect** on an EJ community under the No Action Alternative. No mitigation is required.

**Alts. 1, 2, 3 (On Site)**                    The on-site alternatives would not adversely affect an EJ community. All of the on-site alternatives would construct a mixed use development on the project site. Based on the significance criteria listed above and for the same reasons presented above for the Proposed Action, there would be **no effect** on an EJ community under all of the on-site alternatives. No mitigation is required.

**Alt. 4 (Off Site)** Alternative 4 would not adversely affect an EJ community. Alternative 4 would construct a project broadly similar to the Proposed Action on an alternative site approximately 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) to the west on the border of Sutter County, but still within Placer County. No EJ community is present near this site. Based on the significance criteria listed above and for the same reasons presented above for the Proposed Action, there would be **no effect** on an EJ community under the off-site alternative. No mitigation is required.

### **3.7.6 RESIDUAL SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS**

There would be **no effect** on an EJ community under the Proposed Action and all alternatives. No residual significant effects were identified for the Proposed Action and any of the alternatives.

### **3.7.7 REFERENCES**

- US Census Bureau. 2010. "Census, Summary File 1."
- US Census Bureau. 2006-2010. "American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates."
- US Census Bureau. 2011. "How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty." Last Revised: September 13, 2011.