

3.17 The Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of the Human Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

Implementation of any of the build alternatives would result in attainment of short-term and long-term transportation and economic objectives (gains) at the expense of some long-term social, biological, farmland, and parkland impacts (losses), depending on the alternative selected.

3.17.1 Alternative A

The no build alternative would not provide any of the gains or result in the losses listed above. It would, however, not resolve worsening congestion in the project vicinity and region.

3.17.2 Alternatives B, C, D, and E

The four build alternatives would generally have similar benefits and losses. Short-term economic losses would result primarily from economic losses experienced by businesses affected by relocation. These businesses may experience temporary closures while they relocate to new facilities. Additional short-term construction impacts would result, such as noise, air quality, and traffic delays or detours. The build alternatives would result in short-term benefits associated with increased jobs and revenue generated during construction of the project.

Each of the build alternatives would result in long-term losses associated with the permanent loss of plant and wildlife resources, farmlands, residential units and commercial/industrial structures, and construction materials and energy. In addition, Alternative E would result in the long-term loss of local parkland.

Long-term gains resulting from the build alternatives would include the improvement of the transportation network of the region and the project vicinity; reduction of congestion on local streets and highways; and enhanced multimodal transportation options. The project would provide an integrated and continuous route for local north-south trips between Vacaville, Fairfield, Suisun City, and unincorporated areas of central Solano County as an alternative to using I-80. In addition, the project would provide local traffic a safe, convenient route between Vacaville, Fairfield, Suisun City, and unincorporated areas of central Solano County. Multimodal transportation options would increase, including the provision of a safe, convenient bicycle and pedestrian path and options for transit use in the area.

The project is based on local and regional comprehensive planning that considers the need for present and future traffic requirements within the context of present and future land use development. The project is proposed at this time because of the extensive social costs attributable to existing and expected future congestion. Thus, the short-term and long-term losses of the build alternatives are consistent with the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity for the region.

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