

4.1 Aesthetics

The analysis in this section describes current visual conditions in and around Solvang and evaluates the potential aesthetic and visual impacts of the proposed 2045 General Plan, including impacts to scenic vistas, scenic resources, visual character and quality, and light and glare.

4.1.1 Setting

a. Existing Visual Conditions

The City of Solvang is located in central Santa Barbara County. The primary arterial roadway in Solvang is State Route (SR) 246 (also known as Mission Drive). The city is located in the Santa Ynez Valley, known for its agricultural lands, rolling hills, open spaces, rural character, scenic roadways, and natural features. Solvang is surrounded by the Purisima Hills to the north, the upper Santa Ynez Valley to the east, the Santa Ynez Mountains to the south, and the lower Santa Ynez Valley to the west. Views south of SR 246 include rolling foothills and the Santa Ynez Mountains. To the east and west of Solvang, primary views are comprised of agricultural operations with scattered development. To the north, views include open space and scattered residential development.

b. Scenic Resources

Most communities identify scenic resources as important assets that form community identity. Scenic resources can be natural or man-made features such as trees, rock formations, historic buildings, and public art. Scenic resources in Solvang include scenic vistas and open space. Scenic vistas visible from Solvang include views overlooking the Santa Ynez River and views of the Santa Ynez Mountains, as well as the hillsides within and surrounding Solvang. In addition, there are a variety of open space features both within Solvang's City limits and in the surrounding area that contribute to the rural character of the community such as Alamo Pintado Creek, Alisal Creek, Adobe Creek, Hans Christian Andersen Park, Sunny Fields Park, Solvang Park, and undeveloped land adjacent to Mission Santa Inés. City gateways, which are designated entry points to Solvang, also serve as scenic resources due to their prominence when entering and exiting Solvang.

c. Scenic Roadways

California's Scenic Highway Program designates scenic highways with the intention of protecting these corridors from change that would diminish the aesthetic value of adjacent lands. A highway is designated as an eligible scenic highway when the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) determines that the roadway corridor qualifies for official status. The status of an officially designated scenic highway changes when the local governing body applies to Caltrans for scenic highway approval, adopts a Corridor Protection Program, and receives notification that the highway has been officially designated. Designated scenic highways are required to have an approved Corridor Protection Program and remain in compliance to maintain scenic highway status. According to the Caltrans State Scenic Highway Map, there are no eligible or officially designated scenic highways in Solvang (Caltrans 2023).

d. Visual Character

The visual character of Solvang has contributed to the city being recognized as the “Danish Capital of America.” Solvang’s architecture, landscaping, streetscape, and landmarks, focal points, and gateways make up the visual character of Solvang. These are each described below.

Architecture

The architecture in the Village Area uses traditional Old-World Danish design elements. This architectural style is the primary feature contributing to Solvang’s identity and visual character. In general, this architectural style involves the use of half-timbering on structures with roofing materials such as wood (or in the instance of many buildings, painted to appear to be half timbers), tile, metal finished to look like copper, and thatch. Structures in the city incorporating this style include Hamlet Square and Tivoli Square. Other structures of note in the Village Area include three Danish-style windmills, the Round Tower – a small-scale replica of Copenhagen’s Rundetaarn – and the First Street building with its entwined dragon tail spire, a local interpretation of the spire on The Old Stock Exchange in Copenhagen.

Solvang’s Mission District also offers a distinct architectural style. The Mission District showcases a unique blend of Danish and Spanish architectural influences, reflecting the town’s rich cultural history. The buildings in this district often feature half-timbered facades adorned with intricate Nordic designs, alongside elements reminiscent of traditional Spanish missions, such as stucco walls, red-tiled roofs, and arched doorways.

Outside of the Village Area and Mission District, the city is not uniformly developed with a single architectural style. For example, most residential neighborhoods are developed with traditional California ranch style. As a result, the Danish architectural character of the city is focused within the Village Area and Mission District.

Landscaping

Apart from linking the community’s-built environment with the natural environment, landscaping contributes to a pedestrian-friendly area with shade, screening, decorative color, softening of architectural features, delineation of outdoor spaces, and erosion control. The City has incorporated cohesive functional landscaping within public or private areas which is intended to complement the architectural character of surrounding development. Landscaping is used to emphasize gateways and focal points and frame the scenic vistas that link the city with the surrounding area.

Streetscape

Streetscapes offer pedestrians an impression of Solvang’s overall character. The pedestrian’s perspective includes the material, width, and condition of the sidewalks, the availability of amenities such as street furniture, light fixtures, landscaping, and shade, the use of signage, and the nature of street crossings. In Solvang’s Village Area, streetscapes complement the architectural character of surrounding buildings.

Landmarks, Focal Points, and Gateways

Landmarks and focal points are prominent natural or man-made features that are easily recognized and provide points of reference that people can use for orientation purposes. Landmarks also provide a sense of place and can make a lasting impression on visitors who may come to identify the community in terms of a landmark. Landmarks and focal points in Solvang include Mission Santa

Inés, the Veterans Memorial Building, Bethania Lutheran Church, Elverhøj Museum, numerous windmills throughout town, and the Round Tower. These structures function as landmarks based on historic and cultural significance, location, and visibility.

Major entrances to the city provide visitors with first impressions of Solvang and represent opportunities to enhance the city's identity. Most of Solvang's visitors enter the city on SR 246 from the west or east, but others utilize Alamo Pintado Road or Alisal Road. The cedar trees lining SR 246 between Buellton and Solvang are outside the City limits but create a memorable delineation of the entry into Solvang.

e. Light and Glare

Light and glare from indoor or outdoor uses can reduce visibility of the night sky, create potential hazards to drivers, and be a nuisance to residential areas. The City has typical light conditions found in suburban areas (e.g., roadway lighting, commercial parking lot and building lighting, residential buildings, headlights from motor vehicles). Sources of daytime glare include direct beam sunlight and reflections from windows, architectural coatings, glass, and other shiny reflective surfaces. Nighttime lighting and glare are produced by both stationery and mobile sources. Stationary sources of nighttime light include structure illumination, decorative landscape lighting, lighted signs, and streetlights. The main sources of light pollution in Solvang are streetlights and exterior lighting for the downtown area, as well as lighting along SR 246. The primary source of mobile nighttime light is motor vehicle headlights. Sources of light and glare in the downtown area and residential areas include street lighting along roadways, lit building exteriors and signage, and parking lot lighting.

4.1.2 Regulatory Setting

a. Federal Regulations

No existing federal regulations pertain to the visual resources in the City.

b. State Regulations

Caltrans Scenic Highways

Caltrans defines a scenic highway as any freeway, highway, road, or other public right-of-way, that traverses an area of exceptional scenic quality. Suitability for designations as a State scenic highway is based on the vividness, intactness, and unity of their view corridors, as described in Caltrans' Scenic Highway Guidelines (Caltrans 2008):

- *Vividness* is the extent to which the landscape is memorable. This is associated with the distinctiveness, diversity, and contrast of visual elements. A vivid landscape makes an immediate and lasting impression on the viewer.
- *Intactness* is the integrity of visual order in the landscape and the extent to which the natural landscape is free from visual intrusions (e.g., buildings, structures, equipment, grading).
- *Unity* is the extent to which development is sensitive to and visually harmonious with the natural landscape.

c. Local Regulations

Solvang General Plan

California Government Code Section 65300 describes the scope and authority of local jurisdictions to prepare, adopt, and amend general plans. Communities prepare general plans to guide the long-term physical development of the jurisdiction, and any land within the jurisdiction's Sphere of Influence. At a minimum, the California Government Code requires general plans to address land use, circulation, housing, noise, conservation, open space, and safety issues. The City's current General Plan includes the Community Design Element (adopted in 1988), Land Use Element and Circulation Element (adopted in 2008), Parks and Recreation Element (adopted in 2009), Noise Element (adopted in 2013), Housing Element (adopted in 2023), and the Safety Element and Conservation and Open Space Element (adopted in 2016). The General Plan is currently undergoing a comprehensive update, which is evaluated throughout this EIR. Please refer to Section 2, *Project Description*, Subsection 2.6, *2045 General Plan Components*, for more information related to the 2045 General Plan update.

Solvang Municipal Code – Title 11 (Zoning Regulations)

The City's Zoning Regulations (Title 11) are to implement the goals and policies of the General Plan. While General Plan designations are more generalized in nature, the Zoning Code and zoning districts provide specific controls on land use, density or intensity of development, and development standards to implement the City's General Plan goals and policies. The City's Zoning Regulations provide standards for protection of visual resources, compatible design, and illumination for new development in the City associated with zoning.

Title 11, Chapter 12, Section 18 of the City's Municipal Code outlines regulations for exterior area lighting. According to Section 18, all exterior lighting should protect the night sky, minimize glare, and light trespass, and not be directed toward any area zoned or developed for residential, mixed-use, or hotel/motel uses. All exterior lighting fixtures should be fully shielded. Through these lighting regulations, the City aims to maintain architecturally attractive exterior lighting that will protect the beauty of Solvang's natural setting and enhance its Danish/Northern European architecture and small-town character.

4.1.3 Impact Analysis

a. Methodology and Significance Thresholds

The assessment of aesthetic impacts involves qualitative analysis that is inherently subjective in nature. Different viewers react to views and aesthetic conditions differently. This evaluation measures the existing visual environment of the City, described above, against the proposed project, analyzing the nature of the anticipated change. This analysis focuses on land use changes envisioned under the proposed 2045 General Plan and the aesthetic impacts on the community in terms of arrangement of built to open space, density and intensity of development, and height, according to the thresholds of significance discussed below.

The following thresholds of significance are based on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Appendix G. For the purposes of this EIR, implementation of the proposed project may have a significant adverse impact if it would do any of the following:

1. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.
2. Substantially damage scenic resources, including trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.
3. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings; or conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality in urbanized areas.
4. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

b. Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Threshold 1: Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Impact AES-1 THE 2045 GENERAL PLAN WOULD NOT FACILITATE DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY OBSTRUCT SCENIC VISTAS, AND THIS IMPACT WOULD BE LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT.

As stated in Section 4.1.1(b), scenic vistas visible from Solvang include views overlooking the Santa Ynez River, views of the Santa Ynez Mountains, and the hillsides within and surrounding Solvang. In addition, there are a variety of open space features both within Solvang's City limits and in the surrounding area that contribute to the rural character of the community, such as Alamo Pintado Creek, Alisal Creek, Adobe Creek, Hans Christian Andersen Park, Sunny Fields Park, Solvang Park, and undeveloped land adjacent to Mission Santa Inés.

The 2045 General Plan would facilitate development in Solvang that could affect scenic vistas through obstruction of views, alteration of natural landscapes, and changes to the City's skyline. However, the 2045 General Plan includes the following objectives and policies within the Environment and Sustainability Element that would minimize impacts to scenic vistas:

- **Goal ENV-2:** To protect important scenic resources within the city's plan area.
- **Policy ENV-2.1: Protect Scenic Qualities.** The City shall protect and enhance the important scenic qualities within the City Limits, including scenic views of rolling hillsides and agricultural lands.
- **Policy ENV-2.3: Scenic Transportation Corridors.** The City shall support efforts by Santa Barbara County to protect the scenic qualities of transportation corridors serving the City and region.
- **Policy ENV-2.4: Greenbelts.** The City shall work with the County of Santa Barbara, the City of Buellton, and other jurisdictions and agencies, to preserve the scenic character of the greenbelts and buffers surrounding Solvang and enhance the gateways to the City.

As stated in Section 2, *Project Description*, Subsection 2.5, *2045 General Plan Objectives*, one of the primary objectives of the 2045 General Plan is to conserve and protect open space to preserve the scenic beauty of Solvang's natural surroundings. Policies in the proposed Environment and Sustainability Element would encourage the protection of scenic vistas. Goal ENV-2 aims to protect important scenic resources within the Planning Area; this goal would be implemented through Policy ENV-2.1, which requires protection of scenic views of rolling hillsides and agricultural lands; Policy ENV-2.3, which requires protection of scenic qualities of transportation corridors; and Policy ENV-2.4, which requires preservation of the scenic character of the greenbelts and buffers surrounding Solvang. These policies would ensure development would not adversely affect scenic vistas throughout Solvang.

Several policies in the 2045 General Plan's Community Design Element are intended to preserve specific vistas of the hillsides that surround Solvang:

- **Policy CD-1.34: Developments in High Visibility Areas.** The City shall ensure that new development on sites with high visibility, such as on hillsides or in the highway corridors, is designed to minimize adverse visual impact.
- **Policy CD-1.38: Hillside Development.** The City shall require new development on major ridge lines, canyon edges, and hilltops to be designed and constructed to blend into the natural environment without creating adverse visual impacts. Such design and construction techniques should include siting, massing, scale, and grading that are visually consistent with the natural topography.
- **Policy CD-1.41: Hillside Landscape Design.** The City shall require hillside residential development projects to use plant materials which screen structures and present an appearance that integrates residences with the natural appearance of the area.
- **Policy CD-2.40: Hillside Landscaping Design.** The City shall require that hillside properties be designed to minimize formal landscape planting and hardscapes and locate them close to the residence, follow the natural topography, and preserve native trees, native plant and wildlife habitats, and migration corridors.

Policy CD-1.34 would ensure that new development on sites with high visibility, such as on hillsides or in the highway corridors, is designed to minimize adverse visual impact. Policy CD-1.38 would require new development on major ridge lines, canyon edges, and hilltops to be designed and constructed to blend into the natural environment without creating adverse visual impacts. Policy CD-1.41 would require hillside residential development projects to use plant materials that screen structures and present an appearance that integrates residences with the natural appearance of the area. Policy CD-2.40 would prohibit development on steep slopes and require additional review to ensure that the siting and design of structures preserve hillside areas. Implementation of these policies from the 2045 General Plan would minimize the potential for future development facilitated by the proposed project to adversely affect scenic vistas of Solvang's hillsides.

The 2045 General Plan considers an area of potential growth at the Old Lumberyard site and proposes to construct four, two-story hotel buildings; one, one-story hotel building; one, three-story multi-family residential building; and one, two-story building that would contain a hotel lobby and mechanical car parker on the site (for additional details, please refer to Section 2, *Project Description*, Subsection 2.5.1, *Land Use Allowance*). The abovementioned 2045 General Plan goals and policies pertaining to protection of scenic vistas and hillside vistas would apply to development at the Old Lumberyard site, and would minimize the potential for this development to adversely affect scenic vistas in Solvang.

The 2045 General Plan also considers an area of potential growth at the Alama Pintado site (Site C) and would potentially construct three, three-story apartment buildings featuring one- and two-bedroom units on the site (for additional details, please refer to Section 2, *Project Description*, Subsection 2.5.1, *Land Use Allowance*). Similar to development on the old Lumberyard site, the abovementioned 2045 General Plan goals and policies pertaining to protection of scenic vistas and hillside vistas would apply to development at the Alama Pintado site and would minimize the potential for this development to adversely affect scenic vistas in Solvang.

Adherence to 2045 General Plan policies would minimize the potential for new development facilitated by the 2045 General Plan to have a substantially adverse effect on views overlooking the

Santa Ynez River, views of the Santa Ynez Mountains, views of Solvang’s hillsides, or views of Solvang’s open space features. Therefore, the proposed project’s impact on scenic vistas would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required because this impact would be less than significant.

Threshold 2: Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

Impact AES-2 **THERE ARE NO DESIGNATED STATE SCENIC HIGHWAYS IN SOLVANG. THEREFORE, THERE WOULD BE NO IMPACT.**

As discussed in Section 4.1.1(b), according to the Caltrans State Scenic Highway Map, there are no eligible or officially designated scenic highways in Solvang (Caltrans 2023). Therefore, the project would not have the potential to substantially damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway, and there would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required because there would be no impact.

Threshold 3: In non-urbanized areas, would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings?

Impact AES-3 **THE 2045 GENERAL PLAN WOULD NOT FACILITATE DEVELOPMENT THAT DEGRADES SOLVANG’S EXISTING VISUAL CHARACTER. THIS IMPACT WOULD BE LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT.**

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15387, the City of Solvang is not an “urbanized area” because it is not a city with a population of 50,000 or more. However, the city is considered urbanized by definition of the County of Santa Barbara. As Solvang is considered non-urbanized pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15387, the following analysis discusses whether the project would substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views within and surrounding Solvang.

The visual character of Solvang has contributed to the city being recognized as the “Danish Capital of America.” As stated in Section 4.1.1(d), Solvang’s architecture, landscaping, streetscape, and landmarks, focal points, and gateways make up the visual character of Solvang. The overall vision of the proposed 2045 General Plan would preserve this visual character. As stated in Section 2, *Project Description*, Subsection 2.5, *2045 General Plan Objectives*, a project objective includes maintaining Solvang’s urban form and architectural style to preserve the city’s distinct community character. As discussed under Impact AES-1, policies from the proposed Environment and Sustainability Element and Community Design Element would protect the scenic natural resources that contribute to the City’s visual character, including the surrounding hillsides.

With limited opportunities for new development in Solvang, the proposed 2045 General Plan Land Use Element emphasizes infill and reuse development within City limits, encourages high-density and mixed-use projects where appropriate, and supports development that complements the existing natural and built environment. Goals and policies from the Land Use Element that pertain to visual character include the following:

Solvang Comprehensive General Plan Update and Rezoning

- **Goal LU-1:** To promote high-quality development of a well-balanced and functional mix of land uses that preserves and enhances Solvang’s community character and tourism.
- **Goal LU-3:** To ensure that existing and proposed commercial development is consistent with the overall character of the city.
- **Policy LU-5.1:** Compatibility with Adjacent Uses. The City shall require new mixed-use development to be compatible with adjacent land uses, through site and architectural design techniques that establish buffers between uses and minimize negative impacts.

The proposed 2045 General Plan Community Design Element identifies key components of urban form and architectural style in Solvang and describes the features that create Solvang’s distinct community character. The Community Design Element discusses anticipated urban design enhancements related to urban form, architectural styles, landscape, lighting, pedestrian-oriented environments, and the City’s Design Districts. The Community Design Element also sets forth the City’s goals and policies aimed at enhancing Solvang’s visual character, including the following:

- **Goal CD-1:** To establish the natural and man-made environmental balance of the city and to design and coordinate a unified community that will enhance the two Design Districts (Village Area and Mission) and the historic and rural image and character of the entire city.
- **Goal CD-2:** To maintain and enhance unique, vibrant, and architecturally diverse districts in the city that evoke community traditions and history.

Goal CD-1 would be implemented through Policies CD-1.1 through CD-1.42. Goal CD-2 would be implemented through Policies CD-2.1 through CD-2.42. For the full text of policies CD-1.1 through CD-1.42 and CD-2.1 through CD-2.42, please refer to Section 2, *Project Description*. These policies would ensure that new development or redevelopment under the proposed project would be consistent with existing architectural styles (including the Old-World Danish architectural style throughout the Village Area), landscaping, courtyards, streetscapes, signage, and colors.

The 2045 General Plan considers an area of potential growth at the Old Lumberyard site and proposes to construct four, two-story hotel buildings; one, one-story hotel building; one, three-story multi-family residential building; and one, two-story building that would contain a hotel lobby and mechanical car parker on the site (for additional details, please refer to Section 2, *Project Description*, Subsection 2.5.1, *Land Use Allowance*). The abovementioned 2045 General Plan goals and policies pertaining to encouragement of development that complements Solvang’s natural and built environment, as well as enhancement of Solvang’s visual character, would apply to development at the Old Lumberyard site, and would minimize the potential for this development to degrade visual character.

The 2045 General Plan also considers an area of potential growth at the Alamo Pintado site (Site C) and would potentially construct three, three-story apartment buildings featuring one- and two-bedroom units on the site (for additional details, please refer to Section 2, *Project Description*, Subsection 2.5.1, *Land Use Allowance*). The abovementioned 2045 General Plan goals and policies pertaining to encouragement of development that complements Solvang’s natural and built environment, as well as enhancement of Solvang’s visual character, would apply to development at the Alamo Pintado site, and would minimize the potential for this development to degrade visual character.

As Solvang is considered urbanized by definition of the County of Santa Barbara, the following discussion regarding the 2045 General Plan’s conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality is included for informational purposes. Development and redevelopment

that may occur under the 2045 General Plan would be governed by the abovementioned policies, which would be applied and enforced through the City's standard development review procedures. These plans and procedures work together to protect Solvang's aesthetic resources and are a means to retain the community's character, while providing enhancements in certain areas of the city. Future development would also be required to comply with the City's Municipal Code standards governing scenic quality. For these reasons, future development facilitated by the 2045 General Plan would not conflict with regulations governing scenic quality in urbanized areas.

In addition to adherence to proposed 2045 General Plan goals and policies, all new development and modifications to existing structures facilitated by the proposed project, including development at the Old Lumberyard site and Alamo Pintado site, would be subject to design, density, and height standards applicable to land use and zoning designations. Compliance with established standards and the above goals and policies in the proposed 2045 General Plan would ensure that new development complements and enhances the City's existing visual character and quality and does not conflict with existing regulations that govern scenic quality. Therefore, new development associated with the proposed project would not substantially degrade Solvang's existing visual character or quality of public views and would not conflict with applicable regulations that govern scenic quality, and the impact to visual character and quality would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required because this impact would be less than significant.

Threshold 4: Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?

Impact AES-4 NEW DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE 2045 GENERAL PLAN COULD INCREASE LIGHT AND GLARE EFFECTS IN AND AROUND SOLVANG. HOWEVER, NEW DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO EXISTING REGULATIONS IN THE CITY'S MUNICIPAL CODE AND PROPOSED 2045 GENERAL PLAN POLICIES TO PROTECT DARK SKIES AT NIGHTTIME. THEREFORE, THE PROJECT WOULD HAVE A LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ASSOCIATED WITH LIGHT AND GLARE.

The proposed project would facilitate development that could introduce new sources of light and glare in Solvang, resulting in increased ambient nighttime lighting. New sources of light and glare could be installed for infill development, new development in currently vacant or undeveloped lots, or modification of existing buildings. Specific sources of light could include streetlights, light fixtures in parking lots, signage on businesses, exterior building illumination, interior lighting passing through building fenestration, and outdoor lighting at recreational facilities. Reflective building and vehicles' surfaces, and the headlights of motor vehicles, could generate additional glare.

Compliance with the following, proposed 2045 General Plan Community Design Element policies would minimize adverse effects from light spillover to nearby properties:

- **Policy CD-2.6: Village Area Lighting.** The City shall require street and structure lighting using Dark Skies standards to minimize visual and ecological impacts by preventing glare, limiting the amount of light that falls on neighboring properties, and avoiding light pollution of the night sky.
- **Policy CD-2.8: Village Area Parking Lots and Structures.** The City shall require all parking lots and structures to include design or screening methods to minimize the visual and lighting impact on surrounding neighborhoods and the environment.

For street and structure lighting that use Dark Skies standards, Policy CD-2.6 would minimize visual and ecological impacts by preventing glare, limiting the amount of light that falls on neighboring properties, and avoiding light pollution of the night sky. Policy CD-2.8 would require all parking lots and structures to include design or screening methods to minimize the lighting impact on surrounding neighborhoods and the environment. In addition to these General Plan policies, compliance with Title 11, Chapter 12, Section 18 of the City's Municipal Code would reduce potential light and glare impacts associated with exterior lighting by requiring that exterior lights minimize glare and light trespass, are shielded, and protect the night sky.

Adherence to existing City lighting requirements within the Solvang Municipal Code and proposed 2045 General Plan policies would ensure light and glare impacts from new development facilitated by the proposed project would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required because this impact would be less than significant.

4.1.4 Cumulative Impacts

Regional cumulative impacts consider the City-wide impacts together with similar impacts of reasonably anticipated regional projects/programs. The general approach to cumulative impact analysis used in this EIR, as well as the determination of the cumulative impact analysis area, is discussed in Section 3, *Environmental Setting*, Subsection 3.3, *Baseline and Cumulative Project Setting*.

Cumulative development would contribute to the gradual change in Solvang to one of more urban character, incrementally contributing to regional urbanization and altering the aesthetic character of Solvang. Ongoing potential for future residential development, and particularly for multi-unit residential development and mixed-use development, would alter regionally important views. However, existing development procedures in compliance with jurisdictions' design standards and municipal codes would substantially reduce potential impacts to scenic views from reasonably foreseeable development. As a result, cumulative development would not significantly impact regionally important views or vistas.

Forecasted growth policies in the Cities of Solvang and Buellton and in the County of Santa Barbara encourage infill development, including new medium- and high-density housing, and development near existing transportation corridors. However, given the extensive tracts of open space (including agriculture) in and around Solvang, and existing and proposed policies to ensure high-quality urban design, these changes to the urban character of Solvang would not be regionally significant. Consequently, the potential to substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of Solvang would not result in a cumulatively significant impact.

Cumulative development would introduce new sources of light and glare that would contribute to a cumulative increase in sources of light and glare. However, new sources of light and glare would be introduced primarily within urbanized areas where sources of light and glare exist, thereby minimizing the introduction of sources of light and glare that could affect day or nighttime views. Cumulative development would follow jurisdictions' design standards and municipal codes, which would require minimization of light- and glare-generating sources. Consequently, the potential to create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect surrounding areas or important public day or nighttime views in the area would not result in a cumulatively significant impact.