**3.13 – Potential Effects of Climate Change**

The impacts from climate change are expected to place further demand on water resources in the Southern Sierra Region. As temperatures and evaporative demand by vegetation rise, soils and local aquifers will become drier, creating vulnerabilities due to lower supply and higher demand. The 2011-15 drought was a strong indicator of what is projected to become more widespread in longer, warmer dry periods. Climate change is also projected to result in more variable and intense precipitation and increased flooding. This will be exacerbated as historical large snowstorms transition to becoming large rainstorms. Much of the area already experiences a water deficit each summer, and this will be exacerbated with climate change as vegetation draws on subsurface storage for longer periods each year, making up for lost snowpack storage. All of these topics are discussed in greater detail in **Chapter 16 – Climate Change**.