

# **4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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This Chapter consists of 16 sections, each of which presents the analysis of the alternatives and components within an environmental discipline. Each section includes the following information:

- A short introduction.
- Impacts Evaluated in Other Sections. A summary of where to find topics associated with the section's analyses that are addressed elsewhere in the EIR.
- Setting. A description of the existing conditions for each environmental discipline. The setting acts as a baseline to which the analysis compares the effects of the alternatives and components. In general, the baseline is established as the date of the Notice of Preparation in January 2007.
- Evaluation Criteria with Thresholds of Significance. A table presenting the criteria used to determine specific impacts, measurements used to determine whether an impact is "significant," and the threshold at which the impact becomes significant. The source and justification or authority for each criterion is also identified in the table.
- Methodology. A brief description of how the impact analysis was conducted.
- Impacts and Recommended Mitigation. A presentation of the results of the environmental analysis for each discipline, including the identification of impacts, the determination regarding significance, the description of mitigation measures proposed to avoid or lessen impacts, and whether mitigation will reduce the effects to less than significant. These analyses are presented in the following order:
  - Component Impact Analysis. Each component's environmental impacts are assessed for each criterion. When impacts are identified, a table is provided with the evaluation criterion, the threshold of significance, the impact the component would have on the environment, the type of impact (construction, operation and maintenance, or permanent), and the level of significance, both before and after mitigation. For each criterion, an analysis of the expected impacts is presented and, if necessary, mitigation measures for each impact are proposed. The complete text of each mitigation measure is presented in Chapter 3. No mitigation is proposed for impacts of the No Project Alternative, because CEQA requires mitigation only upon approval of a project.
  - Cumulative Impact Analysis. Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts. These analyses evaluate the impacts from cumulative projects when added to

Project impacts. Cumulative projects considered in this evaluation are identified in the Cumulative Projects List in Appendix C.

- Summary of Significant Impacts and Mitigation Measures. The summary of significant impacts and mitigation measures is presented in a table which identifies all component impacts determined to be significant before mitigation and the mitigation measures proposed for each impact.
- Summary of Impacts by Alternative. The summary of impacts by alternative is presented in a table which aggregates the results of the component impact analysis by alternative.