

3. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION

The following sections of the Supplemental EIR examine the potential environmental effects associated with implementation of the proposed project by issue area. Each environmental issue area is discussed in the following manner.

Environmental Setting includes a description of the existing physical environmental conditions, or “baseline conditions,” at the time the environmental analysis is commenced to compare and establish the type and extent of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. The baseline conditions are tailored specifically for the resource area discussed in each section.

Regulatory Setting identifies the applicable federal, state, and/or local regulations.

Environmental Impact Analysis includes the methodology, thresholds of significance, and impact analysis, described below.

- **Methodology** describes the sources or methods utilized in the preparation of the impact analysis for each resource topic. This subsection includes the criteria that help evaluate the degree of significance for each potential impact.
- **Thresholds of Significance** identifies the standards by which the lead agency measures the significance of an impact.
- **Impact Analysis** presents evidence, based to the extent possible on scientific and factual data, about the cause and effect relationship between the project and potential changes in the environment. The exact magnitude, duration, extent, frequency, range or other parameters of a potential impact are ascertained to the extent possible to provide facts in support of finding the impact to be or not to be significant. In determining whether impacts may be significant, all the potential effects, including direct effects and reasonably foreseeable indirect effects, are considered.

Mitigation Measures identify measures that can reduce or avoid the potentially significant impact identified in the analysis. Standard existing regulations, requirements, and procedures applicable to the project are considered a part of the existing regulatory environment and are not considered or included in mitigation. Mitigation measures are those feasible, project-specific measures which are required, in addition to compliance with existing regulations and requirements, to reduce significant impacts. In addition to measures that the lead agency has sole authority to implement, mitigation can also include measures that are the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency (CEQA Guidelines Section 15091[a][2]).

Level of Significance after Mitigation indicates what effects remain after the implementation of mitigation measures, and whether the remaining effects are considered significant. When impacts, even with the inclusion of mitigation measures, cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level, they are identified as “unavoidable significant impacts.” To approve a project with unavoidable significant impacts, the lead agency must adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations at the time of EIR certification. In adopting such a statement, the lead agency must find that it has reviewed the EIR, balanced the benefits of the project against its significant effects, and concluded that the benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable adverse

environmental effects, and thus, the adverse environmental effects may be considered “acceptable” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 [a]).

Cumulative Impacts considers whether two or more individual effects resulting from the incremental impact of a project, when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probably future projects, may compound or increase other environmental effects. It determines whether the change in the environment results in considerable contributions to cumulative effects.

A consistency analysis was conducted to compare the proposed project with the project analyzed in the 2008 EIR, to determine which CEQA topics warranted further analysis in this Supplemental EIR. As such, this Supplemental EIR evaluates the following four environmental issue areas on which the proposed project could have new or substantially more severe direct, indirect, and/or cumulative environmental effects:

- Cultural Resources (Section 3.1)
- Energy (Section 3.2)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Section 3.3)
- Tribal Cultural Resources (Section 3.4)

Based on Table 4-1 in Chapter 4, Other CEQA Topics, of this Supplemental EIR, the following environmental issues were determined to not have new or substantially more severe significant direct, indirect, and/or cumulative environmental effects as the result of implementation of the proposed project. Therefore, further detailed evaluation of these environmental issue areas is not warranted in this Supplemental EIR. Chapter 4, Other CEQA Topics, includes a brief discussion of the impacts that were found not to be significant, as follows:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Biological Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire