

CHAPTER 4 Environmental Analysis

4.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE ANALYSIS

This chapter contains the analysis of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project for the environmental topics that were identified through the NOP process. This chapter describes the existing environmental setting (i.e., existing conditions) for each topic at the time the NOP was published, the type and magnitude of the project's potential individual and cumulative environmental impacts, the feasible mitigation measures that could reduce or avoid such impacts, and any residual impacts remaining after mitigation. The purpose of this chapter is to inform readers of the type and magnitude of the project's environmental impacts and how such impacts would affect the existing environment.

4.0.1 Environmental Topics

This chapter contains the analysis of the following environmental topics in the sections listed below:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources (includes Tribal Resources)
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

4.0.2 Section Contents

Sections 4.1 through 4.16 of this chapter are each organized into the following major components:

- **Environmental Setting**—This subsection includes pertinent data concerning the physical characteristics of the proposed project that form the baseline conditions for the subsequent analysis of proposed project impacts.
- **Regulatory Framework**—This subsection sets forth all pertinent plans, regulations, and statutes that pertain to the resource under discussion.
- **Project Impacts and Mitigation**—All direct and indirect impacts of the proposed project are analyzed, and mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts are identified, as applicable.
- **Cumulative Impacts**—This subsection includes an analysis of the proposed project's impacts when considered with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable development that could combine to result in impacts to the resource.
- **References**—This subsection lists the documents and other pertinent data utilized in the foregoing analysis.

4.0.3 Classification of Environmental Impacts

The following level of significance classifications are used throughout the impact analysis in this EIR:

- **Effects Found Not Significant**—A determination of effects found not significant is used when the proposed project would have no effect on the resource as it pertains to one or more identified thresholds of significance.
- **Less Than Significant**—If an impact is described as less than significant, it means that the proposed project would have an impact with regard to the threshold discussed for the resource, but the impact would not rise to the level of significance and no mitigation measures would be required.
- **Potentially Significant**—A potentially significant impact is identified when the proposed project could have an impact with regard to a specific threshold, but the impact can be reduced to less than significant through implementation of mitigation measures identified in the analysis.
- **Significant and Unavoidable**—An impact is determined to be significant and unavoidable if the impact cannot be reduced to a less than significant level in spite of implementation of mitigation measures or if no feasible mitigation measures are available.