

3.0

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

3.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the terminology used in this document. The sections following Chapter 3.0 contain a discussion of the possible effects of the proposed project for the specific environmental issue (or resource) areas identified by the LAHD. Sections 3.1 through 3.4 discuss both environmental issues found to be potentially significant and those not found to be significant.

To assist the reader in comparing information about the various environmental issues, Sections 3.1 through 3.4 each present the following information for their specific resource area:

- environmental setting,
- applicable regulations,
- significance criteria,
- impact assessment methodology,
- impacts and mitigation measures of the proposed project and alternatives, and
- residual impacts.

Significant cumulative impacts for the proposed project and alternatives for each environmental resource area are summarized in Chapter 4 of this EIR. A comparison of the results of impacts are presented in Chapter 6.

3.2 Terminology Used in This Environmental Analysis

In evaluating the potential impacts of the proposed project and the project alternatives, the level of significance is determined by applying the threshold of significance (significance criteria) presented for each resource evaluation area. The following terms are used to describe each impact:

- **No Impact:** A designation of no impact is given when no adverse changes in the environment are expected.

- **Less Than Significant Impact:** A less-than-significant impact would be identified when the proposed project or alternatives would cause no substantial adverse change in the environment (i.e., the impact would not reach the threshold of significance).
- **Less Than Significant With Mitigation:** In this case, a significant (but mitigable, or avoidable) impact would create a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the proposed project or alternatives. Such an impact would exceed the applicable significance threshold established by CEQA but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level by application of a mitigation measure.
- **Significant Unavoidable Impact:** As required by Section 15126.2(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, this is used when a residual impact that would cause a substantial adverse effect on the environment—which may or may not be reduced somewhat—could not be reduced to a less-than-significant level through any feasible mitigation measure(s).
- **Beneficial Effect:** The proposed project or alternatives would have a beneficial effect if it would create a positive change in any of the physical conditions in the affected resource area.
- **Mitigation:** Mitigation refers to measures that would be implemented to avoid or lessen potentially significant impacts. Mitigation includes:
 - avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;
 - minimizing the impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation;
 - rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
 - reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and
 - compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

The mitigation measures would be proposed as a condition of project approval and would be monitored to ensure compliance and implementation.

- **Residual Impacts:** This is the level of impact after the implementation of mitigation measures.

3.3 Requirements to Evaluate Alternatives

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6 require that an EIR describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, that could feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives but would avoid or substantially lessen any significant environmental impacts. An EIR should compare merits of the alternatives and determine an environmentally superior alternative.

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