

Chapter 2 Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

This chapter describes the current state of the resources in the project area and identifies the potential effects of implementing the project. Each subsection describes the present conditions, discusses the potential impacts of building the proposed project, and indicates what measures would be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts.

The environmental analysis contained within the following chapter considers the potential environmental consequences associated with implementation of the Build Alternative (Alternative 1) and No Build Alternative (Alternative 2).

The environmental impact analyses discuss potential impacts in three general categories: human environment, physical environment, and biological environment. The following discussion of potential effects is presented by each environmental resource area. As part of the scoping and environmental analysis carried out for the project, the following environmental issues were considered but no adverse impacts were identified. As a result, there is no further discussion about these issues in this document.

- **Wild and Scenic Rivers:** Projects affecting Wild and Scenic Rivers are subject to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 United States Code (1271) and the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (California Public Resources Code Section 5093.50 et seq.). According to the Bureau of Land Management, there are no wild and scenic rivers located in the project area.¹
- **Farmlands/Timberlands:** The California Important Farmland Finder database from the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection (2017), indicates there is no designated Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide

¹ U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. Wild and Scenic Rivers. Website: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/california> (accessed May 2, 2018).

Importance, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local Importance in the project area. Similarly, no portion of the project site is enrolled under a Williamson Act contract. According to the City of Laguna Beach’s (City) zoning map, there is no existing zoning for agricultural use in the project area. The surrounding land is designated Open Space.

The City of Laguna Beach General Plan (Open Space and Conservation Element, adopted May 1, 1984; Land Use Element, adopted February 7, 2012) does not identify any timberland resources or activities in the City, including the area along the project segment of State Route 133. In addition, the proposed project would not be located on federal land (e.g., Bureau of Land Management or U.S. Forest Service lands) and as such, would not be subject to regulations and policies regarding protection of timberlands.

- Relocations and Real Property Acquisition:** The proposed project would not require the relocation or displacement of any persons or businesses. The proposed project will require approximately 22,260 square feet of fee acquisition from the County of Orange and 7,236 square feet of fee acquisition from the City. In addition, the proposed project will require 124,250 square feet of slope/drainage easement from the County of Orange, 12,044 square feet of slope/drainage easement from the City, and an additional 4,802 square feet of drainage easement from the City. The Assessor’s Parcel Numbers (APNs) associated with these acquisitions and easements are shown in Table 2.0.1, below.

Table 2.0.1 Right-of-Way Requirements

Assessor’s Parcel Number	Grantor	Fee	Requirement (sf)	
			Slope/Drainage Easement	Drainage Easement
629-031-24	City of Laguna Beach	-	-	4,802
495-011-03, 493-021-52	County of Orange	11,551	40,199	-
622-011-05	City of Laguna Beach	7,236	12,044	-
622-011-14, 622-011-15	County of Orange	774	5,144	-
622-011-14	County of Orange	992	4,485	-
493-021-52	County of Orange	8,943	74,422	-

sf = square feet

- Growth:** The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, which established the steps necessary to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, requires evaluation of the potential environmental effects of all

proposed federal activities and programs. This provision includes a requirement to examine indirect consequences, which may occur in areas beyond the immediate influence of a proposed action and at some time in the future. The CEQ regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.8) refer to these consequences as indirect impacts. Indirect impacts may include changes in land use, economic vitality, and population density, which are all elements of growth. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) also requires the analysis of a project's potential to induce growth. The CEQA Guidelines (Section 15126.2[d]) require that environmental documents "discuss the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment." This project does not propose to modify existing highway capacity, operation, or accessibility. This project has no potential to influence growth.

- **Geology/Soils/Seismic/Topography:** Based on the Preliminary Geotechnical Assessment prepared, the proposed project would not have an effect in regard to geology/soils/seismic topography, as excavation would be minimal and limited to the construction of the concrete dam, the extension of a box culvert, and the addition of retaining walls, if necessary. With the addition of the following avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measure GEO-1, any impacts will be avoided:
 - **GEO-1:** Prior to the start of construction and during the Design Phase, a site-specific geotechnical investigation shall be conducted by a Qualified Geologist per Caltrans' standards. All proposed improvements shall be designed in accordance with the conclusions and recommendations provided in the site-specific investigation.

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