

5. Environmental Analysis

Chapter 5 examines the environmental setting of the proposed project, analyzes its effects and the significance of its impacts, and recommends mitigation measures to reduce or avoid impacts. This chapter has a separate section for each environmental issue area that was determined to need further study in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This scope was determined in the notice of preparation (NOP) and through public and agency comments received during the NOP comment period from October 7, 2021, to November 5, 2021 (see Appendix A). Environmental issues and their corresponding sections are:

- 5.1 Air Quality
- 5.2 Biological Resources
- 5.3 Cultural Resources
- 5.4 Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 5.5 Hydrology and Water Quality
- 5.6 Noise
- 5.7 Transportation
- 5.8 Tribal Cultural Resources

The following topical areas are discussed in Chapter 8, *Impacts Found Not to Be Significant*.

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

Sections 5.1 through 5.8 provide a detailed discussion of the environmental setting, impacts associated with the proposed project, and mitigation measures designed to reduce significant impacts where required and when feasible. The residual impacts following the implementation of any mitigation measure are also discussed.

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Organization of Environmental Analysis

To assist the reader with comparing information between environmental issues, each section is organized under nine major headings:

- Environmental Setting
- Thresholds of Significance
- Plans, Programs, and Policies
- Environmental Impacts
- Cumulative Impacts
- Level of Significance Before Mitigation
- Mitigation Measures
- Level of Significance After Mitigation
- References

In addition, Chapter 1, *Executive Summary*, has a table that summarizes all impacts by environmental issue.

Terminology Used in This Draft EIR

The level of significance is identified for each impact in this Draft EIR. Although the criteria for determining significance are different for each topic area, the environmental analysis applies a uniform classification of the impacts based on definitions consistent with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines:

- **No impact.** The project would not change the environment.
- **Less than significant.** The project would not cause any substantial, adverse change in the environment.
- **Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.** The EIR includes mitigation measures that avoid substantial adverse impacts on the environment.
- **Significant and unavoidable.** The project would cause a substantial adverse effect on the environment, and no feasible mitigation measures are available to reduce the impact to a less than significant level.