

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

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This chapter describes the current condition of the resources in the Study Area and identifies the potential effects of implementing the proposed 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 impact analysis contained within the following chapter considers the potential environmental consequences associated with implementation of the four proposed alternatives (the No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives 2, 3, and 4).

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 environmental resource area.

## **2.1 Topics Considered but Determined Not to be Relevant**

As part of the scoping and environmental analysis carried out for the proposed Project, the following environmental issues were considered, but no adverse impacts were identified. As a result, there is no further discussion about these resource areas in this document.

- **Coastal Zone:** California's Coastal Zone generally extends 1,000 yards inland from the mean high tide line. The Study Area is located approximately 10 miles from the Pacific Ocean and is not within the Coastal Zone.
- **Wild and Scenic Rivers:** According to the Bureau of Land Management, there are no wild and scenic rivers within the Study Area.
- **Farmlands:** There is no land designated as prime farmland, unique farmland, or land of statewide or local importance within the Study Area. In addition, there is no property currently under Williamson Act contract within the Study Area.

- **Timberland:** There are no designated timberlands or properties with a California Timberland Productivity Act contract within the Study Area.
- **Threatened and Endangered Species:** According to the *Natural Environment Study* (January 2023), the Biological Study Area (BSA) does not contain suitable habitat for any threatened or endangered species. However, a species list was obtained and is included in Chapter 4. As stated in the *Natural Environment Study* (2023), the effect finding for each threatened and endangered species is “No Effect.”