

Chapter 3

Environmental Analysis**3.1 Introduction**

This section serves as an introduction to Chapter 3 and presents an overview of the approach and principles that guide the evaluation of potential environmental impacts in this Draft SEIR. The remaining sections of the chapter (Sections 3.1 through 3.3) present the affected environment and environmental consequences of the Revised Project for each environmental issue, as described in Chapter 2 of this Draft SEIR.

Sections 3.1 through 3.3 each present the following information for its specific resource area:

- Environmental Setting (the physical conditions that existed in 2014; see Section 2.6)).
- Significance Criteria (i.e., the criteria against which the significance of impacts is judged)
- Impact Assessment Methodology
- Impacts of the Revised Project and alternatives, and Mitigation Measures to reduce or avoid significant impacts
- Mitigation Monitoring
- Residual Impacts
- Significant cumulative impacts to which the Revised Project would contribute are summarized in Chapter 4.

3.2 Terminology Used in This Environmental Analysis

In evaluating the potential impacts of the Revised Project, 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 in the impact analysis for each resource area.

- *No Impact*: No adverse changes in the environment are expected.

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- *Less Than Significant Impact:* The Revised Project would cause no substantial adverse change in the environment (i.e., the impact would not exceed the threshold of significance).
 - *Significant Impact:* The Revised Project would create a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in physical conditions within the Project area that ,would exceed the applicable significance threshold established by CEQA but the impact would be reduced to less than significant by the application of feasible mitigation.
 - *Significant Unavoidable Impact:* A residual impact that would cause a substantial adverse effect on the environment and that could not be reduced to less than significant by feasible mitigation.
 - *Mitigation:* This term 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 for implementation as conditions of Project approval and would be monitored to ensure compliance and implementation.
- *Residual Impact:* This is the level of impact after the implementation of mitigation measures.